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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Volume 18 Number 5616 AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 19-20, 1994, THU AL-HIGHEH 8-9, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Settler wounded in 1st attack in self-

d day of a visit in R_s

r imperial captal that a cemetery or carly hall a milion to a settlement in the first attack only bours after the Gaza Strip, military sources said. The settler was attacked while driving along a road being built around the settlement when Palestinians driving of economic star in. the bling cultural be, opened fire. in the opposite direction

ampant crime. Ber Damascus 10 strike a historical test chining the end of a to demand release frictions which in: of Shelkh Yassin

DAMASCUS (R) - Radical Palestinians staged a brief sitin strike at the offices of the y. in 1918. The mr. Wednesday to demand the rehimself St Page lease of the Islamic Hamas Red Cross in Damascus on national champon: lease of the Islamic Yassin prestige of his for from an Israeli jail. Some 35 to to trumper a to 40 people, representing a 10-campaign for its: member radical alliance ral tourism and ropposed to the Palestine Listment to levine a beration Organisation (PLO)-Israeli peace deal, appealed to international human rights organisations to press Israel to be tested in free him. They dispersed peacefully after about an hour. SHINGTON IRI- A statement issued by the rights activists are strikers accused Israel of huaccomplished a man rights violations and de-kthrough that at manded that Sheikh Yassin, founder of the Hamas, which opposes the peace deal, be en in clinical mak freed immediately due to the

ater of the drug to TIPH protests at af. announced Mac Israeli closure

rights to the Net JERUSALEM (R) - International observers in the West meil, which will a Bank town of Hebron accused the Israeli army Wednesday of t company. It keeping them from carrying that Ag. dos to out their duty to monitor the on-dollar busness: safety of Palestinians. In a ted States, mostly:
to unrelated to mea international Presence in Heb-155el lawyer date roo (TIPH) complained a iment on lear of it military closure clamped on confirmed the with the town since Tuesday been reluctant was vented the observers from neally-charged U.S. moving around. There was no immediate response from the it women at 1296' army spokesman.

Italian government wins confidence

ROME (Agencies) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's coalition with neo-Fascists and Federalists won a cliffhanger vote of confidence in the senate on Wednesday, clearing its last significant hurdle to full-fiedged government. The coalidon, which has only a relative majority in the 326member upper bouse, won through with the help of a handful of lift senators who voted in favour and rebel Centrists who left the assembly before the vote to lower the quorum. Of the 326 senators, were present. The result was 159 in favour, 153 against and two abstentions. Abstentions count as "no" votes in the senate. The opposition left and centre had bitterly contested the presence in Mr. Berluscomen must produce ni's week-old government of the National Alliance, which has brought neo-Fascists to power for the first time since World War II. The Centrist Popular Party had told its senators to vote against the coalition but four members tactically left the assembly without declaring their stance in defiance of the party line.

NATO to offer Russia special

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO, worried by Moscow's increasingly anti-Western line, agreed Wednesday 10 offer Russia a special partnership following its refusal to sign a scheme for closer military links with the alliance. Ambassadors from the 16 alliance natioos agreed that a special deal with Russia, which could include extra consultations on European security issues, was needed to "take into account its size and weight" NATO so irces said. The agreement would be entirely separate from the "partnership for peace" scheme, which is open to all eastern European states

King urges national unity and awareness in face of challenges jihad

MMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that "the higher national interest demands that all of us show and practise awareness in the face of challenges and safeguard nanonal unuy and vigilance. panicularly in the crincal stage facing the nation and the country.

Addressing a meeting at the Royal Court attended by heads of information institutions and editors of the local press. King Hussein reaffirmed Jordan's principled stands with regard to the Middle East peace process, stressing that Jordan was seeking a comprehensive and

Reiteranng Jordan's continued support for the Palestinian people, King Hussein said that this backing was in harmony with the 1974 Arab summit resolutions which reaffirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was the sole and legitimate representative

of the Palestinian people.

The King underlined the need for the Palestinian people to remain united in this critical stage.

Referring to coordination among Arab parties involved in the peace process, King Hussein said that there was need for upgrading the level of coordination within a framework characterised by frankness and mutual confi-

The King briefed the audience about the latest developments in the Yemeni



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday greets Minister of Information Jawad Anani before



meeting with chief editors of newspapers and heads of media institutions (Petra photo)

situation, reaffirming Jordan's stand, which, he said, supports the country's unity and drive for democracy. With regard to the siege on

Agaba, King Hussein referred to Jordan's decision of not returning to the peace negotiations until a settlement has been found for the

King Hussein said that

in coordination with the United Nations that a Londonbased firm, Lloyds Register, should take over the task of supervising incoming goods arriving in Aqaba.

King Hussein also reviewed various national and regional issues, reaffirming the need for continued meetings and contacts for the exchange of views over new

Information Minister Jawad Al Anami expressed the journalists' appreciation of the King's briefing and of the chance to meet and discuss various national and international developments.

The audience was attended Chief of the Royal Conrt Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's advisor, Khaled

Israel completes pull-out from Gaza as

after Israel completed its withself-governing authority to be established in the liberated

In Gaza, Israel completed its withdrawal battling stonethrowing youths virtually up to

Now that it is in control of the Strip, the Palestinian police want to regulate the possession

the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which has vowed to fight on against Israeli occupa-

"This movement supports the interests of the Palestinian

"After the interim period

June 5. A convoy of eight jeeps left Ansar Prison in the middle of

is a big thing, both for Israel

"Our departure from Gaza

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters in Tel Aviv.

youths, knowing that this time the soldiers would not shoot, Gaza City.

A boy aged about eight and wearing military-style clothes fired his plastic machinegun at a row of soldiers. The crowd sang and danced and threw fireworks at the troops completing a pullout under the Israel-PLO accord on Palesti-

and fired tear gas. No serious

(Continued on page 5)

the area within less than a

month from today, show the

coals are hot," Itamar Rabino-

vich, Israel's chief nogotiator

with Syria and ambassador to

Washington, told Israel radio.

second Middle East mission

Christopher to persist in his

efforts but said the parties re-

mained deeply divided on key

Mr. Christopher, on bis

Arafat: call was peaceful'

OSLO (Agencies) - Palesnne Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said here Wednesday that his recent call for a jihad should not be construed as hostile to Israel but rather an appeal to strive for complete Middle East peace.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who had said he would query Mr. Arafat on the remark, walked into Mr. Arafat's press conference as the PLO leader was giving his explanation. The two men shook hands and Mr. Peres took a seat at Mr.

They were here for ceremonies honoring Norway's role in brokering the Israeli-PLO peace agreement.

Controversy flared Tuesday when Israeli radio broadcast what it said was a speech given by Arafat May 10 in a Johannesburg mosque in which the Palestinian leader called on Muslims to "take part in a jihad to liberate Jerusalem." Mr. Arafat was in South Africa for Nelson Mandela's inauguration as

Mr. Arafat said here Wednesday that his com-ments had been misunder-

Speaking in English, he said, "it seems that they are trying to squeeze me with

He said that after praying at the Johannesburg mosque; "the worshippers asked me to make a religious speech" and be insisted that bis use of "jihad" was a religious

phrascology. "For your information," he told reporters, "we can say, 'I will continue my jihad to achieve peace' in an Islamic, in a religious way. We can say 'I will continue my jihad to do my work well, till I will be able to bring Christians, Muslims and Jews to

pray together in Jerusalem." He insisted: "Some extremists bave changed the religious terminology into a political terminology. It is not

my fault." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had warned earber Tuesday in Israel that if Mr. Arafat's remarks were confirmed, it "calls into quesnion the peace process."

Mr. Rabin warned at a

press conference with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that Israel would "not accept such violations and continue the process." Mr. Christopher said he endorsed Mr. Rabin's statement.

(Continued on page 5)

Paris meeting pledges \$200m to the Kingdom

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A World Bank meeting of donor nations and agencies Wednesday pledged about \$200 million to the King-dom, which economists say will close the country's financing gap in the balance of payment for 1994, estimated at around

\$250 million. Reports from Paris quoted a World Bank statement as saying that the donor nations and agencies pledged the \$200 million for Jordan to support its economic reforms. Jordan had won pledges worth \$380 million in 1993.

Information Minister Jawad Anani told the Jordan Times that the pledge was for the Kingdom's restructuring programme for a number of sectors, including water and agricultural sectors.

The pledge will come in the form of soft loans, technical assistance and grants and usually tries to cover the final gap in the financial gap in the balance of payment.

A high level Jordanian de-legation left for Paris Saturday to attend a World Bank orga-nised meeting of donors, which aimed to support the Kingdom in closing the deficit in the balance of payments for 1994 and 1995, Jordan's delegation is headed by Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and includes Finance Minister Sami Gammoh,

Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Said Nabuli and Jordan's Ambassador to France Mu'tassem Bilbeisi as well as several key planning and Finance Ministry officials.

The way for Wednesday's pledge was cleared when the Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) on Sunday endorsed the controversial draft Sales Tax Law. A Royal Decree is expected to be issued soon enacting the draft legisla-tion, a precondition for a green light from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Jordan to open debt rescheduling talks with its external credi-

The Minister of Planning in the Paris meeting, the official news agency (Petra) reported, bad briefed the participants on the Kingdom's "achievements on the economic, monetary and social levels in 1994."

Dr. Fariz, Petra said, reiterated "Jordan's determination, as a government and people to continue to execute the provisions of the economic reform programme to achieve an acceptable rate of growth and to fix structural imbalances in the national economy." Fariz said that Jordan will also work towards resolving the problem of enemployment and

Dr. Fariz also briefed the participants on "the challenges

(Continued on page 5)

Ashraf Fouad, who entered

the base from Aden in the

south on Wednesday, said

southern troops loyal to Mr.

Beidh appeared to control

correspondent and other re-

porters from Sanaa saw nonh-

ern troops backed by heavy

armour were well inside the

base and said they were tight-

ening their grip despite soff

Columns of black smoke bil-

lowed above the area and

northern officers said a fuel

storage depot and had been hit

by southern gunfire. Southern planes flew at high

altitude overhead but dio not

appear to drop any bombs and

a northern army officer said

they were apparently directing

Northern commanders said

the bloody pitched battle to

enter the base started on Mon-

day. One officer said: "The

troops of the mutineers (south-

ern leaders) put up bloody

southern troops in the base at

10,000 but would give no figure

No one would estimate

casualties, although one officer

said the battle was "a heavy

one in which airplanes, mis-

siles, cluster bombs and all

types of tanks and artillery fire

Aden-based correspondents

vere told by southern troops

that most of their northern foes

Officers and other sources at

this front also said southern

units were in control of the key

Dhalea junction, four

kilometres northeast of the

base and 65 kilometres north

of Aden, though fighting was

had been driven out.

for his northern forces.

Another estimated the

southern artillery fire.

initial resistance.

At about the same time this

most of the terrain.

Aden echoes to the sound of fighting

ADEN, Yemen (Agencies) — Aden echoed to the thunder of artillery Wednesday as fighting between south and north Yemeni forces moved markedly clear, triggering fear and a fresh exodus of foreigners, an AFP correspondent reported.

It was the first time the sound of battle could be heard so clearly in the port city of Aden, stronghold of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, whose forces are fighting off President Ali Abdullah Saleh's northern army units.

And it send fear running through the population of 500,000, who had been reassured only the night before that the southerners were keeping the offensive at bay.

Remaining foreigners crowded the port trying to board an Indian and a Pakistani ship which were due to set sail. Nearly 280 Indians were scheduled to leave during the day, a port official said.

near the city on Wednesday to both the north and east. Mr. Beidh's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) meanwhile bas stepped up conscription, taking thousands of youths to the front, willingly or not, aboard party vehicles that were criss-

Artillery fire could be heard

crossing the city. Heavy artillery thundered through the key Al Anad military base on the road to Aden in the biggest battle in the civil war that erupted two weeks

Rocket and tank fire added to the deafening noise of battle inside the sprawling 10 kilometre by five kilometre army and air force base where troops of south and north fought desperately to drive out their foe.

The base, 60 kilometres from Aden governs the northern approaches to the city, bastion of the southern leaders. Its capture would give the northern forces a springboard from which to attack the port

Reporters based in Sanaa and Aden went inside its perimiter to try to verify rival claims about who controls the base. Both saw only a small part of the huge encampment, heard beavy gunfire and saw evidence of savage fighting inside and outside Al Anad. Reuter correspondent

raging there. It is a key southern supply line for forces 35 kilometres further north blocking northern forces from advancing through a narrow mountain pass at Dhalea. Other southern officers said

they had stopped the elite northern Amaliqa Brigade advancing on the strategic port city from Zingibar town, 55 kilometres to the northeast. Meanwhile, the U.S. State

Department warned Tuesday

(Continued on page 5)

PLO says Arafat to visit Jericho in June Opposition rejects call to hand in weapons

GAZA, CAIRO (Agencies)

— A senior Palestinian official said Wednesday that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit the self-rule area of Jericho early next month as Israel completed its withdrawal

from the Gaza Strip. Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sbaath said in Cairo that Mr. Arafat could now visit Jericho drawal. He said Mr. Arafat plans to go to Jericho in the first week of June to "personally supervise the Palestinian

the last minute of a 27-year-old

occupation of teeming Palesti-nian towns and refugee camps. of arms in Gaza, Police Chief

General Nasr Yussef said. "We want to regulate the possession of firearms, register them and have the identities of gun-owners," Mr. Yussef told a press conference.

"We hope these arms will be used to support us." He predicted the new force would not have trouble with

people and will continue to do

so. I don't think there will be any problems with it." Mr. Yussef went on: "We

can say that Gaza is on the road to liberacon, now that the Israelis recognise that this land is Palestinian and belongs to the people. So they know their presence is illegal.

the settlers and the army will leave this region."
Mr. Yussef said he had begun to make security preparations for the arrival of Mr. Arafat, who is expected on

Gaza City just after 3 a.m. (midmight GMT).

rects a tremendous mistake," Hundreds of Palestinian

screamed Islamic slogans in the faces of crack Israeli troops leaving another installation in

nian self-rule. When they started throwing stones, the troops ran at them

Christopher briefs Mubarak on peace mission; Syria says peace still far off

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began talks here late Wednesday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on relaunching the different tracks of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, an official source

Mr. Christopher was due to brief Mr. Mubarak after ending his four-day shuttle mission between Israel and Syria aimed at kiekstarning the stalled peace talks. Syrian Presidential spokes-

ntan Gebran Qurieh said after Christopher left Damascus Wednesday that the two countries were still far apart in the peace moves, blaming the Israelis for their position.

the two over the disputed Golan Heights scized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and which have remained the main stumbling block in the

Mr. Christopher had briefed

Mr. Christopher was trying

to narrow differences between

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres during a four-hour meet-The results of Mr. Christopher's talks in Israel show that there are still wide differences because of the Israeli position on the principles of peace," Mr. Qurieh said.

Mr. Qurieb said the Israeli attitude was not in line with the basic principles and demand: of the peace process launched in October 1991 in Madrid. Syria was still pressing for the peace to be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions which "demand a total Israeli

East war, he said. Earlier the New York Times citing unnamed officials involved in the mediation between Israel and Syria, said Damascus had shown a keen interest in an Israeli offer for a

withdrawal to the 1967 bor-

ders" when Israel seized the

disputed Heights in the Middle

three-stage pullout in exchange for peace.

Israel wanted international monitors and electronic devices installed on the plateau. and a demilitarised zone extending to neighbouring parts of Syria, the Times said.

Damascus after bis talks in Israel, the paper added. Mr. Qurieh said Mr. Christopher passed on a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton saying the United States would continue its efforts to

"achieve vital progress in the peace process. He added Mr. Assad had welcomed the U.S. efforts and said Damascus would continue in the process to "reach a fair and global solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict conforming to international resolutions and the principles of exchang-

Mr. Christopher's return to

Damascus Wednesday "as well

ing land-for-peace."

Syria responded with conwithin three weeks, met Israeli siderable interest prompting Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Mr. Christopher's return to on Tuesday to brief him on his earlier talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Mr. Rabin encouraged Mr.

> "Still, there are differences between the positions of Syria and Israel on certain major issues but I helieve that the secretary continues his efforts to find a common basis for the continuation of the dialogue" he said. "There are a lot of problems. We are in the beginning, still (with) a long way to

> > Mr. Christopher, who has

of his discussions, said each specific problem contained sub-issues which were also subject to disagreement. The parties, he said, were scrutinising each phrase and each word of

their respective positions. "The negotiations we have now are at a serious and substantive level and are more fundamental than the ones that have taken place before," he "We heard a few answers

and clarifications from the Syrians which still do not satisfy us," Mr. Rabinovich said. There is still a gap but there was something in them that was concrete and positive." He said Israel had given Mr. Christopher additional questions to pose to the Syrians and also Israeli answers to Syrian

The discussion now is believed to focus on the time frame of what Israel says

(Continued on page 5)

The state of the s

and former Soviet republics.

BAHERY, Iraq (R) — More than 4,000 Turkish Kurds have

fled into northern Iraq over the

same mountain route used in

reverse by thousands of terrified Iraqi Kurds who took re-

fuge in Turkey in the chaotic

aftermath of the 1991 Gulf

About 2,200 men, women

and children are camped in

teuts and makeshift shelters

Hundreds more, who trick-

led in during the last six months, are living in villages near Zakho, mostly in rented

An official of the U.N. High

Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said 4,022 fugitives from Turkey's war with Kurdish rebels had been counted

by last week and more were

"We believe about 22-25

families are crossing every day," said one UNHCR offi-

cial, who asked not to be

The flight of the Turkish

Kurds is on a much smaller

scale than the Iraqi Kurdish

exodus which shocked the

world three years ago, but the

suffering is no less real.
"We are forced to live here

like animals in dirt and fear,"

said Ahmet, a shepherd from

Aktuman village near the Tur-kish town of Uludere, as Tur-

kish jets droned high over-

Ali Cetin, 30, said he had left Tasdeleu village, near Ulu-

dere, two months ago. "The

Turks were bombing us, des-

troying houses, firing at our children and livestock," he

Turkey said last week that the outlawed Kurdistan Work-

ers Party (PKK) had orches-

named.

head

the Turkish frontier.

25,000 bullets mark the 'liberation' of Gaza

(Agencies) - Palestinian policemen and the armed fighters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatch Movement fired 25,000 hullets in the air Vednesday to celebrate the "liberation" of Gaza after 27 years of occupation.

"I'm flying like a bird," said Ziyad Al Atrash, one of the FLO generals who has returned to the Strip to run the police force. "I am waking up from a dream and I feel it has tecome reality.

"The shooting, that's a people marking their freedom, said Gen. Atrash, his voice breaking with emotion.

As soon as the last Israeli soldier drove out of Gaza City in the early hours of Wednesday, Gen. Atrash. who sits on a liaison committee with Israel, was the first to climb onto the roof of the military governor's l eadquarters. He pointed his Kalashnikov

to the sky and empited its clip. The Israeli army left Gaza City until last, pulling out first from the centre and south, of the strip, then from the West Pank town of Jericho, leaving the city centre headquarters to

"I feel like a man who has fiturned home after a long journey, like a mother who finds her lost child.

"If I had not been able to vitness all this I would have given my sight to my son so he

KFAR DAROM, Gaza Strip

(R) - Peace for the Jewish

settlers in Kfar Darom means a

new, three-metre-high dirt bar-

Eracli army dug it for them

before handing over control of

the Gaza Strip to the Palestine

Liheration Organisation

cid that for us," said a Kfar

Diarom resident grimm is sho

maited inside the enclave for a

us behind the freshly-hewn

intification next to the already

control of the administration of

Gaza to Palestinians after 27

accompanied by Jewish-Arah

violence in the West Bank

where Israel handed over

There are no Jewish settle-

reents in Jericho, only a syna-

gogue. But in Gaza some 4,000-

israelis live in 17 settlements.

to leave Arab population cen-

tres in Gaza in the next 24

hours, has closed in on the

The settlers ieel an acute

pinch after expanding for 15

ears under right-wing Israeli

litzhak Rabin became prime

governments before centrist

The Israeli army, expected

The Gaza handover was

Israel Tuesday signed away

existing perimeter wall.

years of Israeli rule.

zericho last Friday.

*settlements.

minister in 1992.

"Because of the peace they

(PLO).

Residents said Tuesday the

could see it," Gen. Atrash

In the abandoned headquarters, the Hebrew writing on the wall warned, "if you want peace prepare for war."

But the Palestinian police were onlivious to anything but the swarming crowd of wellwishers, who danced, sang and waved flags as fireworks exploded all around.

Every policeman, former soldiers of the Palestine Liberation Army, emptied three clips on his rifle to mark the end of

the long, painful exile. The youngest among them knew of "Palestine" only from the lips of parents.

"I have been fighting since my youth and now I've arrived here and I am already old," said the police chief, General Nasr Youssef.

"I now want my people to enjoy better living conditions, want the region to be calm and the next generation to live

The muezzin's pre-dawn call echoes over the city, but the party goes on.

Those who fought the occupation from inside the territories, the underground guerrillas, are out on the streets in force after years of being hunted by Israeli undercover

Mahmud Al Khor aimed his Uzi machine pistol in the air Once head of the Fateh

Gaza Jewish settler dreams

Settlers now complain about

"Nobody wants an army

camp inside their community,

said Arik Ben Kenaan, secret-

ary of the block of settlements

in Gaza known as Gush Katif.

Mr. Rabin's government with

the PLO providing self-rule

allows settlers to remain at

least until a final peace deal is

But the army has moved in

with the settlers. Most of its

main bases are in the Gush

Katif block alongside the mani-

cured settler communities. It

an army planned ceremony in

Gush Katif, to mark the hand-

over of administration of

"We see it as a humiliating:

handover ceremony and we

don't think it should take place

in Gush Katif," said Datia

Hershkowitz, spokeswoman

Ms. Hershkowitz then ex-

cused herself. One of the two

Jewish settlers killed by Mus-

lim militants near Hebron in

the West Bank Tuesday had

been her close friend. On

Monday, Jewish settlers and

soldiers had wounded 18 Arabs

The tiny Kfar Darom and

Netzarim settlements are iso-

lated, not contiguous to the

in a clash in Hebron.

Settlers indignantly rejected

The interim deal crafted by

fade as autonomy unfolds

Israeli soldiers.

causes friction.

for Gush Katif.

Gaza.

Hawks, the 35-year-old has spent 15 years in Israeli jails. "I thought I would be killed before I saw this day," he admitted.

"It's a magnificent moment that many of my comrades have not seen because they were killed too soon." It was all too much for Sami

Al Khodari, His childhood dream has come true. He was born with the occupation and lived outside

the military headquarters all his life. Khodari always wanted to hoist a Palestinian flag on the giant antenna atop the build-

Now I'm waiting for Abu Ammar (Arafat) and all my brothers from outside," he

Israeli aud Palestinian generals smiled and toasted each other at Palestinian Police Headquarters in Gaza when the last Israeli troops pulled out of the strip on Wednesday.

On the streets, Israeli troops and Palestinian youths marked the occasion a different way with a final ritual "clash" complete with insults, jostling,

stonethrowing and tear gas. "Izz Al Din, Izz Al Din, screamed dozens of teenagers in the faces of men from Israel's feared Givati Brigade. idolising the military wing of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, which killed two Israelis earlier in the day.

main Gush Katif block.

They are seven minutes

apart via the main Gaza Strip

road — but that is now closed

to settlers under complicated

traffic arrangements provided

in the peace deal between

Israel and PLO, Kfar Darom

Ms. Sudri, who works at a

nursery at Netzarim, must now

drive out of Gaza on a lateral

road into Israel and re-enter

Gaza at the lateral road that

leads to Netzarim. It takes an

Ms. Sudri, a religious Jew who

believes Gaza belongs to the

Jews by Biblical right, says

none of the inconvenience and

none of the fear she feels at

Palestinian rule outside the set-

tlements would bring her to

"You don't need to read

Hitchcock-like books to im-

agine what can happen here,"

she said. But added: "It is

impossible to get us out of

She said she grew up dream-

ing of being a pioneer and defender of Israel and added:

"I know that they don't want

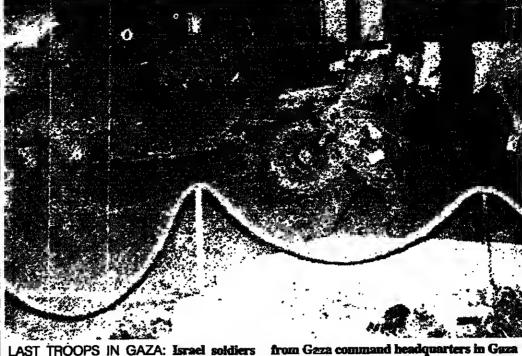
Gaza. They want Jerusalem.

move back to Israel volun

tarily.

bere."

resident Tali Sudri said.



LAST TROOPS IN GAZA: Israel soldiers run from stone-throwers as they withdrew City Wednesday (AFP photo)

Palestinian intelligence chief hid out in Israel for 27 years

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — The Palestinian intelligence chief for Gaza and Jericho hived in hiding in Israel for 27 years, when even his family believed he had died, a senior Palestinian police offic-er disclosed here Monday.

The officer told AFP that General Mosbah Hanafi Rushdie Sakr went missing during the 1967 Middle East war in which Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But the intelligence chief for the self-rule areas of Jericho and Gaza lived in Israel under a false name.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat "announced to us, a few days ago, that be (Sakr) would he the next chief of the intelligence services," the officer said, declining to be named.

Born in Gaza in 1943, Sakr graduated as an officer from the Cairo Military Academy in the late 1950s. He was commander of the Palestine Liberation Army for the Khan Younis area of Gaza in 1967, when he disappeared without a trace.

A nephew, taxi-driver Bashir Sakr. said the head of the Palestinian police force contacted the family last week.

"General Nasr Yussef sent two of his men to my house on Thursday, in my absence, and asked my mother: 'Where's your brother Mosbah?' The poor woman replied she had

no idea," the nephew said.
"Then I met a deputy to the general who asked me what I knew of my uncle Mosbah. and I replied that he was dead.

'He replied: 'No. Your uncle is alive and is living somewhere nearby. If he turns up or calls, tell him that President Arafat wants to speak to him or that he should come to our offices."

Some people believed General Sakr had drowned swimming the Jordan River from the West Bank to Jordan.

But his hrother Hamis said he had never really believed Mosbah was dead. "I didn't wear black in mourning. asked the International Committee of the Red Cross but they never found him in Israeli prisons.

He also investigated in Amman and Beirut as well as with the PLO, who said the general had died a martyr for the Palestinian cause.

When I found out he was still alive, I burst into tears. But I won't really believe that either until I've touched his hand," said the brother, a merchant in Gaza City.

Even the general's wife, Nismat Barzak, who runs a school, has not had contact with him throughout the 27 years in Israeli occupation, according to the family.

Their two grown-up sons now abroad working in Arah countries, also never saw their father and "only know his face from old photographs," said Hamis, as people entered his the wonderful news.

39 held as Egypt police break up protest

CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptian riot police Tuesday fired tear gas at thousands of lawyers protesting the death of a colleague in police detention, wounding two people and making 39 arrests, the Interior Ministry said.

About 6,000 people were thered at the Bar Association's beadquarters in central Cairo when baton-wielding riot

police intervened with tear gas as the demonstrators neared the gates to march on the presidential palace.

The association, which is dominated by Muslim fundamentalists, said it had tried several times to secure authorisation for the march in protest at the alleged torturing to death of Abdul Hareth Mada-Ωi.

It had given assurances the

demonstration would he peaceful.

But the Interior Ministry said the association was backed by extremists out to stir trouble in the streets and had stoned the police and shouted slogans against the government.

Two people were slightly wonnaea and by others arrested, 27 of them lawyers, it

shop to congratulate him on

oppression". The UNHCR, however, says the Turkish Kurds are refugees who have a reasonable fear of persecution in their own

guerrillas have hideouts.

The fugitives do not feel entirely safe so close to the Turkish border, saying Turkish planes and helicopters often bombard the area, where PKK

Turkish Kurds are fleeing into north Iraq, Many of the Kurds first stopped at Qasrok, closer to the Turkish border, but relief offi-

cials said they abandoned the site after Turkish air raids on April 21, which also forced Iraqi Kurds to evacuate the village of Parakhi. The UNHCR may move the Turkish Kurds to a safer area near Atrush, about 50 kilometres south of the border.

where it is considering building made of plastic sheeting and them a new camp with shelters. hranches on the banks of a "First we need to get a budget from the UNHCR in stream at Bahery, northeast of the Iraqi border town of Geneva," the UNHCR official Zakho, a few kilometres from said. "So far we have been distributing tents, blankets. Another 400 recent arrivals jerrycans and food from stocks are living nearby in white meant for northern Iraq -U.N.-provided tents on a these will have to be remountain roadside at Sher-

placed.

For now, the refugees in the mountains are living in preca-rious conditions, with no clean water or sanitation.
"The health situation is not

bad so far, but it is getting worse," said a foreign doctor working for a Swedish charity, "We are seeing more diarrhoea and skin manifestations due to the lack of clean water, Summer heat could make things worse."

Iraqi Kurds show an instinctive sympathy for their Turkish kin, recalling the way Turkish . Kurds came to their aid after their panic-stricken flight from.
President Saddam Hussein's

army after a failed Kurdish uprising in March 1991.
"I'll never forget what those villagers did for us in the first

week before the United Nations and the relief groups began to help us," said a well-educated Iraqi Kurd from Dahuk. But many people in northern

Iraq themselves need foreign relief aid, thanks to the donble embargo imposed by the United Nations on Iraq and by the Baghdad government on the

The crippled economy can offer little to newcomers and. Iragi Kurdish farmers do uot. want refugees on their land, .

trated the exodus as a publicity The plight of the Iraqi Kurds. in 1991 prompted the United ploy.
Foreign Ministry spokesman
Ferhat Ataman said the PKK States, Britain and France to set up safe havens inside Iraq was staging a scenario to "de-ceive the foreign public" and present the displaced people as "Kurds escaping Turkish to allow the displaced population to return home. Allied planes still patrol northern-skies daily from hases Turkey.

This year Turkey has intensified its struggle to wipe out the PKK, but denies that its forces are deliberately destroying or emptying Kurdish-populated. villages in the southeast.

More than 11,600 people have been killed in Turkey since the PKK launched its fight for a separate state in

Egypt urged to give Copts greater role

minority Christian Copts.

They took this as a base." Israel and the PLO left occupied Jerusalem, the eastern Arab half captured by Israel in 1967, for negotiations on a final deal.

Asked what she would do if the government one day cui a deal and forced her to move, she said with a catch in her voice: "I can't think about i that... I don't know what I would do."

CAIRO (R) - A leading human rights campaigner urged Egypt Tuesday to lift 19th century laws which he said discriminate against the country's

Saadeddin Ibrahim said Egypt should also remedy the lack of Coptic officials in many areas of government and a marked absence of Coptic his-. tory in school textbooks.

"We have a long list of propesals from changing some laws... which go back to 1805, all the way to editorior the tenthooks, and the me in the said.

Under a law enacted in 1856,

when Egypt was a province of the Ottoman Empire, Copts require a presidential decree every time they build new churches or repair existing ones, he added.
"Even to repair the (church)

hathroom you need a presiden-tial decree," he said. Mr. Ibrahim, who heads a development studies centre in

Cairo, was speaking at a news conference to present initial reports from a controversial conference held to discuss mercies in the Arab World.

was moved from Cairo to Cyprus at the last minute because of an outcry against plans to discuss the Copts. Protesters said Copts, far from being a minority, were a homogeneous part of Egyptian society and that the meeting was a front for foreign meddling.

Kurds, Berhers, Palestinians, southern Sudanese and Shiite Muslims also attended

the three-day conference. Government figures show Copts make up around 6.5 per ceut of Egypt's population of 58 million. The Copts say the

figure is nearer 10 million. Ibrahim said delegates agreed on the need to reconcile the principle of full rights for minorities, including in some cases self-determination, with the need to avoid splitting countries into separate states

on religious or ethnic lines. The most important thing in the conference was to break the taboo of discussing minority problems, which everybody in his heart knows exists but no one wants to talk about," he

said. "Call them whatever sect, denomination... more important than the naming is to see if they bave grievances," he added.

if you study in Egyptian schools from the first grade to the 12th grade there is no presence of the Copts in any of our textbooks."-He said although one of

Egypt's most prominent international figures, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, was a Copt, there were no Copts among the country's college deans, university heads or 26 regional governors.

Ex-Israeli bank chief given 11 months in jail

TEL AVIV (R) - The man who once stood at the pinnacle of Israel's banking establishment was sentenced to II months in jail Wednesday, the climax of a decade-old scandal that cost taxpayers \$9 billion. Ernst Japhet, chairman of

Bank Leumi when it was Israel's biggest bank, was also fined \$300,000 by a Jerusalem Mr. Japhet, 72, served as

Bank Leumi's chairman for 16 years until he resigned in 1986 with a 'golden handshake' of \$4.5 million. His sentence was the

heaviest punishment given the 10 former executives of Israel's top four commercial banks found guilty of manipulating the price of bank shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in the early 1980s.

Implementation of sentence was delayed until the Supreme Court rules on an expected appeal. Mr. Japbet declined comment.

District Court Judge Miriam Naor shocked the banking establishment last month, sentencing nine former executives. to up to eight months in jail for the fraud scandal.

She said Mr. Japhet had a greater responsibility because of his prominence in the banking establishment. He wastried separately, having only. returned to Israel in January: after a long, self-impose exilito New York.

The Israeli government paid. after inflated share prices collapsed in a rush by investors to dump stocks and buy U.S. dollars on rumours of an impending devaluation of the Israeli shekel.

Thousands of small investors, many of whom viewed the shares as non-risk, lost their life savings. The government is only now seiling off shares in the banks: Bank Hapoaling. Bank Leumi.

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News In English
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But many people is iraq themselves no relief aid, thanks to b embargo imposed by Bagndad government The enppled en

offer little to never Iraqi Kurdish farma want refugees on the The plight of the le in 1991 prompted & States. Britain and h set up safe havens in to allow the displant tion to return hour. planes still pard skies daily from Turkey.

This year Turkey PKK, but denies that are deliberately destr countying Kurdish villages in the south More than 11,00 have been killed in since the PKK is fight for a sepane: 1984.

iths in ja District Court July

Naor shocked the establishment last me tencing nine formes to up to eight month! the fraud scandal She said Mr. Jan of his prominence of ing establishmen rned separately, la returned to Israel after a long, selfto New York.

The Israeh govern so billion to buy cat after inflated share F lapsed in a rush by it. dump stocks and h collars on rumous a pending devaluant Israeli shekel.

Thousands of stores, many of whom shares as non-estimated shares as non-estimated only now selling of the banks. Bank to

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For now, the relay government s drive to apply ious conditions, will and participation' principle in water or sanitation. "The health size all fields and support all efforts "The health sines to enable employees to shoulworse," said a force better, more efficient manner.
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We are seeing to a duty to place the right person the to the lack of the right position and it has to the lack of the right position and it has to the lack of the right position and it has to the lack of the right positions discussions Jue to the lack of desence farages serious discussions in an atmosphere of freedom things worse. The solution of the problems of the solution ive sympathy for the ministry's Planning Committee kin, recalling the man along with Minister Ahmad Kurds came to the Akaileh and senior officials. Kurds came to the Akaileh and senior officials.

their panic-strictor.

Last month rinance in governesident Saddan Sami Gammob said the governesident saddan Sami Gammob said the governesident was not considering army after a label ernment was not considering uprising in March & an across-the-board pay raise "I'll never long of for civil servants and was not villagers did for the partial of the p villagers did for usin aware of reports that Parliaweek before the la ment members and senior gov-

AMMAN (Pctra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali

Wednesday reiterated Jor-

dan's support for the Bosnian

people noting that the King-

dom's participation in the

peace keeping efforts in the

former Yugoslavia were

motivated by bumanitarian

was speaking in his office with Jordan's delegation to

the International Parliamen-

tary Union (IPU) meeting in

Brussels to discuss the situa-

cited the in-kind assistance

offered by Jordan to the Bos-

nian people and its hosting of

Bosnian families in Amman

as part of the humanitarian

Dr. Majali thanked the de-

egation, led by Kamel Shar-

, for its efforts during the

meeting in support of the

Bosnian people's rights. The

premier was given a copy of

assistance to Bosnia.

The prime minister, who

sentiments.

Jordan reiterates

support for Bosnia

Delegation reports on IPU

meeting in Brussels



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majail Wednesday attends a meeting of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment planning

ernment officials were poised by JD 70 million that year. to get a substantial hike in In the discussions that folallowances and salaries. lowed the prime minister's re-Mr. Gammoh had told the

marks Wednesday, Dr. Majali Jordan Times that there was no replied to a question saying plan for any such raise, at least that Jordan deeply believed in during 1994. collective Arab actiun in the A raise offered to govern-Middle East peace process,

ment employees in 1993 in-We believe that no single creased government spending Arab party should follow un

committee (Petra photo)

independent course in the current peace process," he said. According to Dr. Majali Jordan would continue "tu stand by all the Arab brothers in all matters, because the Kingdom believes in a comprehensive, durable and just peace which constitutes the basis for the region's stability.

NEWS IN BRIEF

HUDD project goes to local firm

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Department HUDD Wednesday granted a local construction firm a JD 1.076 million contract to set up school buildings, a health centre and a community centre for Al Zarga Housing Estate. The construction work, which is to be completed in 15 months, was designed to serve the inhabitants of 150 housing units and owners of 1,000 plots of land nearby, according to HUDD Director General Yousef Hiyasat. The entire 425 dunum area where the department had set up the housing units, complete with all basic infrastructure, will later be surrounded by public gardens and will have a car park, said Mr. Hiyasat in a statement at the contract signing ceremony. Experts seek equal opportunities for disabled

AMMAN (Petra) — An International conference organised by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) under the title "Equalisation of opportunities for disabled persons," Wednesday opened at the Jerusalem Hotel in Amman. Participants in the two-day conference, representing, in addition to UNRWA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Development Fund (UNDPL) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), will discuss issues related to providing equal opportunities to handicapped persons, rehabilitating them and merging them in the society. Director of UNRWA's Disability Programme Suad Alwan told the opening ceremony that UNRWA runs rehabilitation programmes in five centres for the disabled in Al Bagaa, Souf, Jerash, and Azmi al Mufti refugee camps in addition to one in Waqqas town in the northern Jordan Valley region. She said the UNRWA commissioner-general has also decided to allocate 20 per cent of its job opportunities to the handicapped.

House endorses draft insurance law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Patliament Wednesday endorsed a draft insurance law after amending its 56th article concerning the creation of further insurance companies in Jordan

Article 56 read: "No new insurance companies are to be registered in the country after the endorsement of this law except through a decision by the Council of Ministers based upon recommendations from the Minister (of Industry and

The house amended the article to read; "in line with a set of regulations to be issued for

this purpose." The government last month presented the draft law to the House, but later asked the lawmakers to put off discussion of the law in light of developments that led to negotiations with insurance companies.

The government was first motivated to submit the draft

law because at the time the insurance companies had stopped issuing liability insurance for its action. policies, thus endangering people's lives, according to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in remarks to the House on

After the draft law was approved by the Cabinet, the companies reversed their decision and returned to selling liability insurance policies.

The House's endorsement of the amended law followed a lengthy debate of the draft during which some deputies demanded that the governmeni return the law to the House's judiciary and financial committees for further study because of what they called the law's significant impact on the national economy.

Several deputies who referred to the government's earlier motion requesting an urgent discussion of the draft law and later cancelling the urgency, demanded that the government present an explanation

Other demanded that the government clarify the question of the reported government decision to raise insurance premium's by 50 per cent

over two years.
Others demanded that the government conduct a full examination of the status of the insurance industry, saying that 17 companies have been monopolising insurance operations in the Kingdom, practices which they said are unconstitutional and cause damage to the public interest.

In reply, the prime minister said the press reports saying that insurance rates would be increased were totally ground-

He said the government was negotiating with the insurance companies over studies to better organise the industry.

Referring to the govern-ment's decision to cancel its request to discuss the draft law, Dr. Majali said, "it must be clear to all that the government was serious and never contemplated any prevarications when it requested an urgent debate, since that was needed at the time.

But be said when the insurance companies started the negotiations there was no longer a need for the urgent re-

Stressing that the government does not enact laws under pressure from any external parties, the prime minister said that the government con-tinues to seek laws that are regarded as serving national

House Speaker Taher Al Masri announced that the next session would be held after Al Adha feast and an exact date will be fixed later.

WAJ pumps more water to Amman before feast

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Wednesday announced it would pump additional water supplies to all regions of Amman from Wednesday until the start of Al Adha feast Saturday. WAJ Director General and Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Qusai Oteishat said arrangements have been made in cooperation with the Jordan Valley Authority and other

concerned authorities to pump additional water from Zay region near Salt to meet the expected increase in water consumption in Amman.

"We are still committed to the water distribution programme which started earlier this month and we will return to it after the Adba feast, pumping water to different regions of the capital in turn," Mr. Qteishat told the Jordan

To increase the water supply, WAJ will in the coming two days begin pumping water from the Heidan springs south of Madaba at full capacity, estimated at 2,000 cubic metres per hour, said Mr. Qteishat.

He said that in the past two and a half years WAJ has been pumping water from Heidan springs to the Amman area at the rate of 1,200 cubic metres per hour.

The completion of equipment installation and related. technical work has enabled WAJ to start full capacity pumping from Heidan, be

At the same time, Mr. Qteishat said, WAJ is intent on developing and utilising smaller attesian wells in different regions to meet the expected increase in water demand during the summer.

He said WAJ was adopting a policy whereby different villages and population settle-ments would be supplied by separate nearby artesian wells rather than from main water springs and artesian wells that feed towns.

Police search for missing teenager

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Police and family members are looking for a 15-year-old boy missing since May 9. Ismail, the ninth son of Abdul Ghani Abu Sharkh, a tailor who lives in Ruseifeh, left bome and did not return that Monday evening after a

Neimat said: ... The family notified all police stations and hospitals in Irbid and also placed an advertisement in local newspapers with a photo of the

Neimat told the Jordan Times that her father divorced her mother on May 9. "My brother is very sensi-

tive, and when my mother was divorced she had to leave our house, and so did my

brother," the sister said. She said the family situation in their house was always troublesome, and her brother

dropped out of school be cause he was unable to concentrate on his studies.

"I did not expect my brother to run away from bome, because he never thought of it before," the 30-year-old added. Man drowns in well

On Tuesday, in Ramtha, a family argument, bis sister - 30-year-old man drowned in-· - : a well, two others were reported in fair condition and three Civil Defence Department (CDD) officers suffered minor injuries while attemp-

> CDD and police reports said. According to the report, Ismail (the drowning victim) and his two brothers were installing a water pump for their well in the yard of their home. The report said Ismail accidently fell into the well. His two brothers tried unsuccessfuly to rescue hime as did a CDD rescue team which

was called to the scene.



A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the well was tight, and his rescue team became farigued while trying to pull out the three men.

All six persons were rushed to Ramtha Military Hospital. The five who survived were listed in fair to good condiWoman commits sucide A 24-year-old woman from

Irbid committed suicide Monday by setting herself on fire, according to the CDD. Rita B.B., died in her house after she poured kerosene on her body and set herself aflame, a family mem-

ber told the Jordan Times. The source said that the woman suffered from mental illness since 1987 after her

husband deserted her.

According to a CDD reoft. The départment was called out to 100 accidents between Monday and Tuesday; 75 were rescue cases. The report mentioned three other women who attempted to committ suicide. One woman died, the other two were

listed in critical condition. The report gave no details as to the names and ages, of

the three women.

By Natasha Bukhari Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Political parties are in agreement that a more communicative and cooperative working relationship with the government is needed if those parties are to become effective elements in Jordan's political, social, and intellec-

While some party leaders arg. E that people are reluctant jom political parties because the government is trying to arginalise their role in decision making concerning national issues, the govern-ment sees the parties' ineffectiveness on the ground to be caused by their inability to come up with something "new and practical" that would encourage people, according to Interior Minister Salameh

Mr. Hammad told reporters that the meeting he had with political parties' secretary generals last week was aimed at "strengthening the relationship between the Ministry

Parties see their strength tied to relations with government of Interior and political parand that it was very

the resolutions passed at the

end of the Brussels meetings.

outcome of the conference

which, he said, stressed the

right of the Bosnian people to

self-defence and internation-

al support for ending the

arms embargo imposed by the United Nations on Bos-

Dr. Majali said that Jordan

would uphold the IPU's re-

commendations and resolu-

tions and support their imple-

nied to the Brussels meeting

by Monsignor Raouf Najjar

of the Roman Catholic

Church in Jordan, Laith

Shubeilat, president of the

Jordan Engineers Associa-tion, Mousa Kilani, editor-in-

chief of Al Dustour, Izzat

Jaradat, a columnist and

Father Constantine Karmash

of the Greek Orthodox

Church in Amman

useful in that area.

mentation.

Mr. Sharif outlined the

Party leaders want the government to consult with them on national issnes for the sake of reaching common ground.
"Political parties represent
the different sectors of society, and they should be part of the country's executive body (gov-

ernment)," said Ali Amer, the

secretary general of the Jorda-

nian Progressive Democratic Party (JPDP). Mr. Amer said the political parties' failure to come up with practical programmes to counter what he believes is the government's undemocratic method, is another factor that further adds to political par-

Our government uses democracy as a disposable mantle that it choses to wear or take off whenever it fancies," charged Abdul Aziz Jaber, an Islamie Action Front (IAF) depoty, referring to what he sees

nes' ineffectiveness.

as government's indifference to several requests made by deputies.

Former member of the Arab Democratic Party (ADP), Deputy Samir Habashneh told the Jordan Times that political parties are like transplanted kidneys in a body that rejects

"The government is the body that rejects the kidney, thus negating its role as a main organ for the proper functioning of the body's system," said

the deputy.

Mr. Habasbneh added tbat unless wide communication bridges between the two camps are established, parties will continue to lack credibility and remain ineffective. He said the average citizen will continue to abstain from joining parties if he or she is not convinced of the parties' effective role in the structure of the country.

In a memorandum sent to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali last month, seven political parties demanded that the government consult with them and all other licensed parties on matters of national interest and allocate funds and provide facilities to help political groups conduct their activities. lo response, Dr. Majali said the government would do all it could to respond to the de-

In the meeting which discus-sed the working relationship between the government and political parties, Mr. Hammad pledged to provide the political parties with any information they need on agreements or protocols signed by Jordan

with other countries.

Deputy Ali Abul Ragheb, a centrist, told the Jordan Times that the parties should assume their role in Parliament. He said that although quite a few parties were represented in Parliament, the only one with "significant representation was the Islamic Action Froot. "They (the IAF) are an opposition party all the way and they are united in their stand towards the government," said the deputy, adding that the other parties "do not know what they want and lack a clear-cut working scheme, whether supporting or oppos-

ing the government."

Commenting on party leaders' complaints that the government marginalises their role in Jordan, Mr. Abul Ragheb said the government tries to undermine whoever threatens its authority, including de-"The government is incap-

able of applying democracy within its different bodies, so bow do you expect it to be fair to political parties whose majority oppose the government?" the deputy said. At a meeting at the Royal Court with Speaker of the

Lower House of Parliament

Taher Masri, members of the

House's various committees

and spokespersons of par-

The King also emphasised the need to establish democratic norms and constructive dialogue to "enrich the march (of democracy) and enable it to achieve its noble goals."

King Hussein urged parlia-

mentarians to "continue their

distinguished work in the fields

of legislation and monitoring

the government's perform-

according to Petra oews

Government and Parliament sources said that a resbuffle in the present government to incinde parliamentarians and political party members is expeeted within the coming week. The sources said this towards national representarion in the country's govern-

Among the demands made by political party leaders was allowing parties to use Jordan Radio and Television, the Jordan News Agency, Petra and the Press and Publications Department for coverage of political parties' activities.

In response, Mr. Hammad said that radio and television time would be "completely taken up if all Jordan's 22 parties were vying for equal

The minister added that parties can use their newspapers for coverage purposes and

could work to "provide something different" in their pub-

Some party heads also de-manded that political parties be exempted from taxation since they are among the Kingdom's legal iostitutions, arguing that it is the case in all democratic countries that the minimising the expenditures of such institutions.

Commenting on this subject, Deputy Habashneh said that legalising political parties in Jordan was a very positive step towards democracy, but that much work is needed before parties are genuinely recognised and treated as a major and indispensible part of the country's political and social

little

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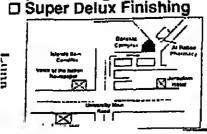


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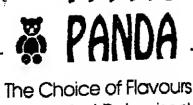






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Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Turning point in struggle

THE HANDING over Tuesday of civil control in Gaza Strip to the Palestinians is a turning point in the Palestinian struggle for liberation. The sheer size of the Palestinian population affected by this dramatic transition, estimated to be well over three quarters of a million, makes the transition an important step towards a more promising future for the peoples of this region. Gaza and Jericho constitute no more than five per cent in terms of the area of the occupied territories, but the significance of this development cannot be underestimated anyway. From now on the Palestinians will take charge of no less than 38 civil services comprising health, education, environment, taxation and day-to-day administration of the area.

The most daunting challenge facing the Palestinian administration will remain to be maintaining law and order. "Only the maintenance of security, order and calm is likely to bring success to our mission," commented the police chief for the strip Gen. Naser Yussef in the wake of the Israeli departure. But another immediate concern will be the resolution of the acute water problem facing the population, especially in Gaza. Overdrilling without any policy control or guidelines over the past years hase made the water not only scarce but its quality harmful to health as well. The Israeli occupiers left the Gazans to stew in their own juice by neglecting to put in place a coherent water policy for the area for much too long after making sure that the water needs of Israeli settlements in the Gaza territory would be secured from direct Israeli sources. Given the relatively large amount of foreign aid already pledged to the Palestinian autonomous areas, the PLO leadership can now afford to put in place an entirely new framework for the economic development of the areas with environmental consideration high on its agenda as

Linking the Gaza Strip with the Jericho area by a lone highway under the direct control of the Israelis as is the case now can only temporarily serve the immediate interests and needs of the two Palestinian autonomous territories. Sooner or later the linkage between Gaza and the rest of the Palestinian territory in the West Bank would call for a more viable resolution within the framework of the overall settlement for the remaining areas still labouring under the yoke of direct Israeli rule.

Faisal Husseini may have summed up the present situation well by saying when he welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jericho Tuesday: "We welcome the secretary of state here in Jericho in the first step towards (a Palestinian) state in the future." Gaza and Jericho are just the beginning of a long process that may indeed end up in getting rid of the Israeli occupation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS ironic to think that the Yemenis, who are adhering to unity, are most concerned with pursuing the fighting, which has caused heavy loss of life and wide spread destruction, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'l daily. It is therefore not astonishing to see the Socialist Party of the south adopting an adamant position and seeking an end to this unity, which is sought through force and destruction, said the writer. The formation of a national salvation council in Aden grouping all the parties in addition to the socialists, is a clear indication that the southerners are intent on rejecting unity with the north because of the war being launched on them by Sanaa, he pointed out. Observers see the war as a de facto split between the north and south and a factual end to unity forged in 1990, he added. The writer said that there can be no unity between two peoples whose armed forces are locked in battle and whose leaders failed to resort to reason and dialogue to resolve their differences. Should the scenario continue, with the northerners bent on conquering the south, added the writer, there can be no choice left for the Yemeni people in Aden except to fight to the end.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular should reject any agreement with Israel that does not ensure full rights for the lawful owners of the land and the holy places. Citing the Cairo agreement as an example of the accords that should be rejected, Mohammad Masalha said that the accord reached by the Palestinians and the Israelis grant the Arabs limited control on a very limited part of their land. While supporting the Palestinians in their ongoing endeavours to regain full rights, Jordan has blessed the return of Jericho and Gaza to Palestinian sovereignty but at the same time, the Kingdom hopes that this step would only be the first along the long path for freedom and an end to occupation, said Mr. Masalha.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdosbeh

Higher education: A liberal system under conservative authority

THERE IS no doubt that the credit-hour system, introduced at our universities a little over two decades ago, is immensely sophisticated and liheral, offering students greater opportunities than in its predecessor (the so-called year system) and limitless choices. Sadly, however, our higher education establishments have not yet explored many of its enriching possibilities. In fact, and this is what causes real concern to many of its advocates, the system is recently being consistently violated and deliberately undermined.

Fundamentally, the system is based on the principle of freedom of choice. The students get to choose (among other things) not only the teacher they feel comfortable with, the time that suits them best, and the number of courses they feel able to handle per semester, but also when to take a certain course or drop it, what to minor in and what not, which electives to select, what major or majors to finally stick to, and

This last point is particularly significant. In many highly competitive and highly respectable universities, which follow the system, in addition of course to the many which are not so highly competitive or respectable, the student is given greater leeway than is currently allowed at our colleges and universities in deciding when so specialise in a certain field. At the former, most students do not declare a major until they enter their junior year. This means that they spend the first two years exploring venues and experimenting with options until they finally know where their tastes and abilities really lie. By contrast, our students are asked to specify their specialty either prior to admission or at the end of the first year.

This, I believe, is unfortunate. Our students, unlike many luckier students in other parts of the world, do not have much of a chance at home and at school to test their potential strengths and weaknesses and sort out their academic or vocational preferences. Most of them, 90 per cent I would say, decide on a particular subject either because their parents wish them (at times they force them) to decide upon or, quite simply, because it is fashionable and prestigious (the latter is primarily due to peer or social influence). Very few choose a discipline after they have seriously thought about it. The least thing we could do, at the university level, is to give the students a couple of years to find out where their true calling lies, a calling to which they will be married for the rest of their lives — much like to a spouse.

Many universities have gone even further, permitting their students to major in two or more subjects at once, subjects which are at times not even remotely related. I have seen students at U.S. universities who specialise, for example, in mathematics and French literature (simultaneously), in government and biology, in linguistics and physics, etc. Such students justify their "peculiar" decision not only (obviously) by saying that their own interest/ability is itself double or dual (i.e. they both enjoy and are good at mathematics and French literature) but also by finding concrete links between seemingly dissimilar fields of study. Many interdisciplinary barriers

have been broken.

Some colleges have adopted an even more liberal and revolutionary approach. I know, for instance, of a programme (called the college scholar programme) which has existed since the late 1970s at several American universities. The idea here is for the university to select up to 100 students annually and tailor courses to suit their individual needs. Their major, composed of a cocktail of courses from the college or the university at large, is essentially a no major; the students enjoy absolute freedom in studying any course they see fit, no questions asked.

Imagine saying this to some of our meticulous," "responsible," "rule-abiding" and extremely "patriotic" and bureaucratic university officials: they will either think you are crazy and thus laugh at you, throw you out of their office, or simply collapse as a result of surprise. Less dramatically, I can already anticipate what some readers are thinking (specially lovers of the older system). We are not in America. I hear them say; we are in Jordan. Our needs are different our environment is different, our culture is different and our students are different. Well, I totally disagree. I think our students are sophisticated enough, responsible enough, creative enough and good enough to work within any challenging system beautifully, with proper supervision.

I do not wish to go on about what our universities may do to liberalise their policies (and thus open a can of worms), for our concern at this particular point is to restore and protect, rather than expand, the degree of liberalism we have had but are slowly losing. Let me dwell on a couple of examples to illustrate what I mean by such loss, such violation, and such undermining of the present system.

1. Until recently, our students used to transfer from one department to the other fairly easily. They took a specific number of courses from the department they wanted to join and, upon obtaining the desired grades, they were accepted into that department. The process was, on the whole, smooth and simple. Today, transfer has been exclusively limited to those students whose marks in the tawjihi entitle them to change specialties. Such measure is utterly unfair because it deprives those students, who have scored low in the tawjihi, but who have the potential to excel in a field they wish to switch to, from the chance to fulfil their dreams and prove themselves. I speak from experience when I say that some of the best students in the history of the English Department at Yarmouk are transfer students who have not scored high in the

University administration gives two reasons for the severe curtailing of transfer: all that some weak students end up, through various means, in a very desirable specialty which they are not good at, and b) that transfer is a process which creates many headaches. The first reason is understandable, even though I know for sure that the number of such "weak" students can be effectively controlled and eliminated, assuming of course that it is a significant number. The second reason

is nonsensical, for why not have a headache for a good cause? Why keep so many students in physics performing in a very mediocre way when they can distinguish themselves in modern languages? Some poor students of Arabic literature can be very successful students of business. Why kill so many talents? Because the registrar will have a headache!!

2. Once upon a time our students had a long list of courses from which to choose; there were choices in the list of obligatory courses from the department, college and university and choices from the list of electives. There were, as far as I can remember, five courses from the history department, five from the department of psychology, five from mathematics, five from Arabic, etc. to select one course from in the category entitled "university requirements." For instance, if you were an English major interested in taking a course from the History Department on European history, you could. Nowadays, there is only one course in history for all university students (who are not majoring in history) to take. The list of electives within the department has also shrunk tremendously. Once upon a time also, the student used to add or drop any number of courses he/she sees fit. Today, the add/drbp procedure is almost nonexistent. The rationale behind the two cruel decisions is that, as you may easily predict, the registrar and the administrators will have headaches, if they allow these extremely "irresponsible" and "capricious" srudents to select from a long list or to add and drop whenever they like. "We." the registrar and the administrators, have other more important business to attend to. Fine, limit the choices a little. But do not butcher and eliminate! The student should have a chance to see what the teacher looks like or what the material in the course is, before he/she commits themselves to it for the rest of the semester. We can live with some headaches. I would go as far as to say, especially to those who think there is a perfect system with no problems whatsoever, that the more headaches there are in the system the better the system may be. Let's not forget that the best system is the one which serves our students, not the registrar.

One could cite other examples. What bothers me most about the whole marter, however, is either the protective or the reductive artitude held by many of our university administrators with respect to students. In their opinion, our students are either those helpless beings who do not know what is in their best interest (and therefore we should decide for them) or those extremely malicious and irresponsible creatures—whose sole job is to violate order and break systems (and therefore we should control them as much as possible). On these two counts, we are mistaken.

Frankly, we need to change our attitude regarding the way we conduct business at our universities, and we need to liberalise a little.

The writer is professor of American literature at Yarmouk University.

From Oslo to Cairo: repackaging the occupation

By Nasseer Arari

THE ROAD from Madrid to Washington to Oslo and beyond, to Taba and Cairo, has spelt disaster for the Palestinian people. Mnch bas been said and written about the Oslo deal, the Declaration of Principles (DoP), its pitfalls, shortcomings and manipulative phraseology. But clearly, the Cairo agreements which followed on Feb. 9, and April 4 and May 4 have secured Palestinian acquiescence in Israeli unitateral acts taken in the course of the occupation.

The agreements on the

questions of jurisdiction, security, economy and settlements, for example, offer insight into the final status of the occupied territories. The agreements, let us call them Cairo I, II and III, have also demonstrated that the "Gaza-Jericho First" model is not likely to improve during the next phase. After all, there is no ambiguity about the fact that, during the interim period, the status of the Gaza Strip and the "Jericho area" will be identical to that of the West Bank. Article IV and Annex II of the DoP make this quite clear.

Cynics have been saying, since Sept. 13 1993, that "Gaza-Jericho First" will also be the last. Now, after the three Cairos, the question is what kind of a "first" do we really have, and what kind of precedents have been set? The question of security and jurisdiction have clearly been decided in accordance with Israel's interpretation of Oslo, reflecting a dangerous imbalance which has already ruled out an honourable compromise. The problem, therefore, is not the Palestinians' negotiating strategy but the terms of reference they accepted. The term "negotiations" is a misnomer. Not only does Israel act in accordance with coherent strategy, it also adheres to a consistent policy, supported by domestic consensus and sustained by the U.S. and international backing. Israel's position is now bolstered by an accord whose every word, phrase, concept and even punctuation was checked to ensure its correspondence with the Zionist consensus.

Blunders at Cairo and

The Palestinian side, on the other hand, bas already wasted its recognition card and, in effect, disavowed resistance, thereby removing the intifada from the calculus of the negotiations. In return for recognition of Israel's right to exist, the Palestinians were simply allowed to live in scattered portions of the

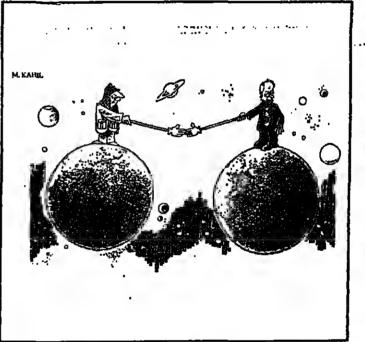
West Bank as residents in greater Israel but not as citizens in the future state of... Palestine. The Oslo accords put an end to the ambiguity of Camp David regarding the nature of Palestinian rights, based on the notion that the West Bank and Gaza are disputed territory and that their status will not change, in as much as the military government will exercise all powers not transferred to the Palestinian authority, which will be legally subordinate to it. Israel will continue to exercise de facto sovereignty, and the laws of the occupation will continue to be the principal legal basis for governing the West Bank and

The balance sheets of the Cairo agreements reveal that the outcome was consistent with the terms of the Oslo declaration of principles. Cairo I was already determined and preordained by the DoP despite nearly five months of fruitless struggle by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to obtain a better deal. Such exertion of energy and ntilisation of diplomatic resources might have been better invested in Oslo than in Cairo.

Lacking even the simplest attribute of a strategy on questions of international law, Mr. Arafat's negotiators at Oslo gave away the essence of the Palestinian position on the basis of which Palestinian rights gained world-wide recognition during the past quarter of a century. The position which Haidar Abdul Shafi's team had adhered to, on Mr. Arafat's own instructions, between October 1991 and August 1993 and during 11 rounds of negotiations, was squandered in Oslo. The DoP is not predicated on the crucial principle that Israel is an occupying power within the terms of international law. So Israel will be able to claim and exercise de facto sovereignty not only over the illegal settlements but over Gaza, Jericho and the whole West Bank as well. Without acknowledging its status as occupier, Israel will continue to shan the Geneva Conventions and shrug off its responsibility to the people while it controls their land.

Accordingly, when the deadlock over the control of border crossings, the size of Jericho and the question of security was partially resolved in Cairo on Feb. 9, Mr. Rahin felt vindicated while Mr. Arafat seemed despondent. The former had only to invoke Article VIII of the DoP.

Israel will continue to carry the responsibility for defending against external threats, as well as the responsibility



for overall security of Israelis.

Palestinian demands, therefore, for control of traffic over the Jordan and at Rafah were more in the realm of supplication than negotiation. Had Mr. Arafat planned more carefully at Oslo, be would have known the serious implications of the provision in Article VIII. That implication is exactly what he accepted: actual Israeli control of the border and symbolic Palestinian presence bestowed gratuitously. Border control was in any case confirmed as an Israeli responsibility in Cairo I, as a derivative of the external security clause in Article VIII.

The two-stage concept

The division of the "peace process" into inferim phase and "final status", which is rooted in the former U.S. secretary of states George Shultz and James Baker plans of 1988 and 1989, as well as in the Israeli "election plan" of 1989, has been utilised by Israel to gain virtual PLO acquiescence in its positions on security, settlements and jurisdiction.

The security reasoning which Mr. Rabin used to confirm Israeli control of crossings in Cairo I was later claimed to confirm Israeli responsibility for overall security even in Jericho and Gaza during the interim phase. This is what Cairo II in fact resolved, and what Mr. Rabin announced on April 4 after the signing. "Only one party must retain overall responsibility for security. Israel will retain sole responsibility for security in Hebron... (and) throughout the Gaza Strip as well as in the area of Jericho where the Palestinian selfadministration body will be established."

Nor would the future entry of the Palestinian police relieve Israel of that "responsibility". Mr. Rabin added: "While there is redeployment, we continue to bear overall responsibility for wbatever bappens in the Gaza Strip." He made it crystal clear that a vacuum of power would not be allowed, and therefore no Palestinian police units would be deployed until they were "thoroughly ready to undertake their responsibility to uphold law and public order". No doubt, he was speaking of Israeli occupation law and the kind of public order that leaves no room for dissent. Again, the DoP ensures by virtue of Article IX that reviewing existing laws is a joint responsibility, giving Israet a veto on such a re-

Clearly, security and public order are relevant only where Israel or Israelis are concerned. The Hebron massacre and its bloody aftermath demonstrate that. Cairo II bas already closed the files of the Hebron massacre. In the absence of an impartial investigation, and given the revelations that Israeli soldiers and police are not allowed to shoot at settlers even if the settlers are shooting at Palestinians, the security arrangements for Hebron in Cario II will testify to a strange harmony between victim and victimiser.

Every single demand tonted by the PLO in the wake of the massacre (international protection, dismantling of Hebron settlements and placing settlements immediately on the interim phase agenda) was predictably surrendered at Cairo. Again Israeli responsibility for overall security was re-

confirmed as the token 160 observers were declared a substitute for the requested international force. This group has no military or police functions; it is unarmed; its freedom of movement is restricted by Israel; the renewal of its mandate is subject to Israeli veto: It is responsible not to the U.N. secretary-general but to the "joint Hebron committee" of two Israelis and two Palestinians. The make-up and functions of the force make a mockery of the concept of international protection. As the centrepiece of Cairo II. this new and strange dimension of international protection was enshrined as a provision to bypass the Geneva

Conventions.

The same strategy was applied by Israel in Cairo I on settlements. Again playing on the concept of security in Article VIII of the DoP and the two-stage formula, Israel effected a starting achievement regarding settlements in Gaza. 16 settlements occupying 18 sq km which seemed dispensable to Israel during the Washington rounds, have not only been given a new lease of life but also provided with an additional 22 sq km of land.

Article VII of the DoP was also used to gain this effective acknowledgement by the PLO that settlements constitute an internal Israeli marter. "The withdrawal of the military government will not prevent Israel from exercising the powers and responsibilities not transferred to the Council."

The trappings of statehood In their haste to demons-

trate some success to constitutents whose opposition to the DoP bas grown enormously since the Hebron massacre, Palestinian negotiators have sacrificed crucial principles. Consistent with Cairo I and II, the third Cairo agreement is replete with make-believe elements of statehood. Just as Cairo I invented the symbolic entry stamps and immigration officers, Cairo III invented such ornaments as a passport which has the familiar phrase "laissez-passer" written on the top. As stateless people the Palestinians have become accustomed to laissez-passers granted by Egypt, and since 1967 by Israel. Now, residents of the Gaza Strip and Jericho will he receiving Palestinian laissez-passers instead, although the word "passport" appears on the cover under "laissez-passer". Palestinian postage stamps will be issued inscribed "Palestinian authority". Telephone calls to Jericho and Gaza will go through the Israeb network. And the list of embellishments goes on and on, yet Israel did not hesitate to draw red fines where the trappings could conceivably be construed as symbols of sovereignty.

Likewise, the Palestinian Monetary Authority, which was created by the Paris economic accord on April 28 1994. Is presumed to be something of a central bank, but the Palestinians were denied the right to issue their own currency. Meanwhile the phrase "economic cooperation", which appears frequently in the DoP, is being utilised by Israel to ensure the continued dependency of the Palestinian economy on that of Israel. "Cooperation" is hardly the description of a relationship between an economy with a \$63bn gross domestic product (GNP) and another with a mere \$2bn GDP, two-thirds of which is derived from work in Israel. This kind of cooperation will be used by Israel to safeguard against Palestinian economic independence and to reinforce the solid restrictions on political independence as

The public discourse or the past two months have made it clear that whatever mandate. existed for the negotiations from the Palestine National Council (PNC) or the PLO Central Council is now in doubt. The most recent imitiative by the Movement for Reform and Democracy in the territories condemns the Cairo agreements as having conferred legitimacy on illegal measures undertaken by Israel during the past 27 years of occupation. Those who initially signed its petition on April 25 include a number of former negotiators, chief among them Haidar Abdul Sbafi. They appealed to the Palestinian people to consider the Cairo agreement nonbinding and null and void. The movement is beginning to emerge as a third force in the territories, offering an alternative to Mr. Arafat's Fateb and Hamas.

But in the face of that Mr. Arafat conducts business as if the U.S. and Israel were the source of his legitimacy. His acceptance of the Israeli interpretation of the Oslo accords has shattered the post-Madrid Palestinian consensus. Also, baving renonnced resistance as a form of terrorism and bavi accepted Washington's dictates as to which acts deserve commendation and which ones require condemnation. Mr. Arafat has effectively abdicated his role as leader of a dispossessed, disenfranchised and dismembered nation entitled to redress.

Middle East International.

Dr. Ahmady, ve auth

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DAY-FRIDAY WEEKENGEY

Theatre vs audience — a vicious circle

By Mohammad Masharigan

"Jordanian theatre versus Jordanian audience" is a unique issue and any attempt to deal with it would end up with one going in a vicious circle.

In my view, three parties should be held responsible for lack of public interest in theatre work: the Ministry of Culture, the Jordanian theatre audience and the theatre people themselves. But each is trying to shift the hlame on the other.

In discussing this issue with playwrights, producers or actors, one can only feel they are filled with pain indignation and frustration, and they harbour no hope of ever seeing a theatre filled with audiences or of witnessing the dawn of a real artistic and cultural renaissance in Jordan.

Asks Suheil Elias who has established Ammoun Theatre: Does this society need a theatre?

"Having passed through 28 years of non-stop work in the field of theatre, people view me with astonishment as if I have fallen from another planet, says Elias, adding: "Indeed after this long experience, I have come to realise that this country is not in need of theatre. A theatre or lack of it in Jordan does not cause state officials sleepless nights."

"Only when they are in office, do culture ministers visit theatres and seldom are they seen afterwards following up on any artistic or cultural work, let alone keeping their promises," Elias says.

Initially established as a department to cater to the requirements of arts and theatre work, this institution has gradually grown into a full-fledged ministry for culture and arts with an army of officials, but with little of its funds benefiting the cause of culture and arts, according to Elias.

Why, he asks, the government "is in the practice of allocating JD I million annually to the ministry which does nothing, when it could be spending this buge sum

on 10 different artistic and cultural groups which are capable of rising to the occasion and capable of presenting a refined taste of modern cultural and artistic work covering all themes and pleasing all tastes?"

We are not in need of luxurious buildings, cars, or travel expenses which are consuming 88 per cent of the ministry's annual budget," says Elias.

"We feel ashamed to mention the very limited number of theatre goers in Jordan and it is not a secret to say that out of a million Ammanites, 600 frequent theatres," notes Elias.

Regarded as one of the founders of Jordanian theatre in the early sixties, Elias received training in London and only a month ago he was able to open the Ammoun Theatre with financial support from a private firm.

His initial work was a comedy entitled Taboo... Taboo with a simple message presented within the context of a merry atmosphere. "But it was a hard

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

experience because the threate audience harely exceeded the actors on stage", sayse Elias. "It seems people prefer clownish entertainment."

Critic Jamal Ayad who has been following the development of the Jordanian theatre says the problem does not lie in Elias's play or the actors who presented it

This is a problem facing the Jordanian theatres in general and the producers face a heroic task of marketing their production through advertising in the press, radio and television especially since Jordanians are not used to going to theatre as the case is in other countries," he says.

Ayad still asks: "Why has Nabil and Hisham Theatre achieved successes and has ensured continuity and an acceptable margin of profits?"

Indeed plays like "Ablan Salam" and "Ahlan Budget" which have continued for several consecutive months attracted a large audience. Hisham Yanes, one of the main actors in Nabil and Hisham Theatre says his theatre has been sucessful simply because it tackles issues of concern to the public.

"We care to present our plays in a satirical manner without offending any person and this has been accepted by the audience to a large extent," Yanes says.

Another play that has been attracting large audiences is "Harat Abu Aw'ad" which is presented at the Stars Theatre. The play, founded by the main character in the play Nabil Al Mashini, had been presented in different forms on Jordan Television and also won public favour because it used to tackle issues of concern to the public.

These two examples indicate that it is the nature and the theme of the play that is of interest to the public. But at the same time one wonders why some of the great works did not meet with any success, forcing their actors and producers to close down the play and incurring huge financial losses.

One has to admit the hitter fact that the Jordanian audience is more interested in entertainment or comedy programmes, especially those that direct criticism at individuals or institutions or regimes. This audience, which is more accustomed to television, seems to be lacking any interest in other types of theatre work about which it knows very little.

Elias says: "We must start to acquaint people to theatre work right from early stages of school education where we can instil in the minds of the young the love for culture and arts."

"We might also need to encourage not only the entertainment theatre works but rather more serious types of plays which carry humanitarian messages to society", according to Fathi Abdul Rahman, founder and director of the "60-Chair Theatre" in Amman. He says that the state's assistance in encouraging and

Suheil Elias

promoting serious theatre work is required at this stage, simply because it is no more possible for private groups to survive merely on selling entry tickets.

Abdul Rahman suggests that the state provide steady financial assistance to the local private theatres and offer facilities to encourage their work to continue and be presented in the Kingdom and abroad.

BOOK REVIEW

Beijiing and the

world

Lillian Craig Harris' thesis in this survey of Chinese

relations with the Middle East is that from ancient times

China has had an interest in the areas as a security

buffer; the first part of her book gives an overview of the

situation up to the establishment of the People's

Republic, while the second and longer part is a detailed

account of the evolution of relations from 1949 to the

The author shows the continuity of the basic tenets of

Chinese diplomacy as the world changes. Making the

case that throughout its history, it has always "used

barbarians to control barbarians", she shows how

Chinese policy towards the Middle East was inspired in

the 1950s by Beijing's desire to counter first the United

States' influence in the world, and how after the

Sino-Soviet split the driving force became its rivalry with

Moscow. She ties this in with China's traditional

self-image as the centre of the world and source of moral

superiority that has enabled it to present itself as a

champion and a model to the developing countries.

So far, all well and good. But the book does not live

up to its promise. A work of this sort that covers two

different areas of the world has to take into account that

it is potentially of interest to readers with greater

knowledge of one half of the subject than of the other.

There is too little context given for what often enough

amounts to simply a blow-by-blow account of visits and

agreements between China and various Middle Eastern

All facts in this book are backed up hy copious quotes

from relevant sources, but these are sadly ill-digested.

An example taken at random: Describing Chinese

reaction to Peres' handover of the Israeli premiership to

Shamir in 1988, she quotes the Beijing Review - taken

as synonymous with the Chinese view - as saying that

"Peres had 'made no progress"". But in what? And how

had China come to this assessment? It is true that a lot

China Considers the Middle East

I.B. Tauris, London 1993, £34.50

By Lillian Craig Harris

present.

Construction workers find evidence of ancient harbour at pyramids

By Mimi Mann The Associated Press

NAZLETT ÉL-SESE, Egypt — Construction workers digging in a neighbourhood near the Sphinx have found the remains of an ancient barbour where men and stones were ferried in to build the Great Pyra-

mid of Pharaoh Cheops. "It changes history, ev- " of the sites." erything we've ever believed. It's a wonderful discovery," said Zahi Hawass, antiquities director of the

pyramids area and Sphinx. Archaeologists long bave assumed that a harbour would bave been essential for the pyramid builders to have transported massive building blocks and finer stones to Giza Plateau.

Granite arrived on Nile River barges after 440-mile (700-kilometre) journeys northward from Aswan's royal quarries.

It was believed that one large harbour serviced the plateau, crowned by the three Giza pyramids and at least eight smaller pyramids, That is the account in history books and sketches

In 1978 geologists located a possible harbour at the foot of the plateau in front of the Sphiax. The latest discovery, made in February, indicates the three main pyramids each had separate barbours, a big surprise for Mr. Hawass

The large pyramids hon-

son Chephren and grandson Mycerinus. Egyptologists believe the pyramids were built simultaneously over a

70-year period, beginning about 2551 B.C. Separate barbours meant work could be channelled to each pyramid, making construction far more efficient and coordinated than previously be-

Hundreds of thousands of stones, most weighing 20 tonnes but some as much as 400 tonnes, went into building the pyramids, the Sphinx, tombs, temples and plateau.

The new find is a section of huge blocks that form a wall 231 feet long and 10 and other Egyptologists. feet wide (70 metres long oured Pharaohs Cheops, bis and 3 metres wide), the style "absolutely from Cheops' time," Mr. Hawass

Mr. Hawass believes the wall is part of a huge retaining wall that channelled Nile water into a harbour below Cheops' pyramid. From the water's edge, workers hauled the massive blocks up the plateau to the work site.

The find was made whenlabourers dug foundations for planned apartment buildings in the workingclass neighbourhood of Nazlett El Sese, a five-minute drive from the Sphinx. Construction was stopped.

Buried beneath three feet of dirt, the huge rock wall and stones laid as a harbour bed were awash in stagnant sewage water when disco-

vered early this year. A high-rise apartment, private garden and school rim the excavation site, eliminating the chance for archaeologists to trace the barbour's outlines.

Three years ago workers constructing a sewage system in the same area bit a similar row of basalt blocks stretching almost 60 feet. Mr. Hawass identified those blocks as part of Cheops' Valley Temple, which likely stood at the edge of a canal or harbour.

"This harbour is another Cheops secret that's been revealed to us," Mr. Hawass said. "There must

be more out there." Today the Giza pyramids appear in isolation, but in ancient times each was part

of a ritual complex. The pharaob's body was transported - probably in a funeral boat along a Nile canal — from the royal capital in nearby Memphis.

From the barbour, the body was taken into a valley temple for rituals, perhaps for a primitive type of mummification. Afterwards, it was carried along a rampway for final purification rites in a mortuary temple at the pyramid's base. Then the pharaoh was placed in the burial chamber, and his pyramid sealed.

Ancient Egyptians Delieved the elaborate ceremonies were necessary to ensure the pharaoh would unite with the sun God Ra. giver of eternal life and

protector of Egypt.

Bosnia's teachers return to the chalk-face

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Thousands of Bosnian school-teachers are working in war-ravaged buildings for the equivalent of one German mark (65 cents) a month to set the country's shattered educational system back on its feet.

Classes resumed within days of last February's + JATO ultimatum to separatist Serbs that stilled the guns that had pounded the city for almost two years.

Teaching had continued in a random manner even during the bombardment, largely as a gesture of resistance to the hesiegers, Education Minister Enes Durakovic said.

Three months after the return to a semblance of normality, the level and quality of teaching was still well below pre-war norms but was "catching up fast."

Dwarfed by two bombedout office tower blocks, the Isak Samokovlija School still bears the scars caused hy the eight grenades that passed through its roof. The rubble has been cleared away, but the school's windows, like those of almost every building in the city, are filled with sheets of plastic.

The school works in two shifts, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Slightly more than 1.000 children aged from six to 13, divided into 40 classes. receive lessons five days a week. Since 70 per cent of them are refugees from

other regions of Bosnia, including 50 orphans, they present particular probiems, school director Nedzad Nanic said.

Many have been disturbed by the war and have lost the habit of concentration. There are residual fears of grenades and snipers, and they are still largely under-nourished, Mr. Nanic said. He praised their effort

and discipline, however: They appeared to enjoy lessons, finding school a refuge in times of hardship. In the winter days following the ultimatum, when electricity was only occasionally available, they were happy to have their lessons by candle light.

The number of teachers

in Bosnia is down by 45 per cent on pre-war levels, for a variety of reasons, notably defection or death. But so too is the number of children: 16,000 killed in Bosnia, 1,700 in Sarajevo alone, according to official

At the Samokovlija school, two teachers had been killed and three badly wounded. The wounded teachers were continuing to work, Mr. Nanic said. The salary, at 500,000 dinars (one-German mark) a month, is poor even by the standards of Bosnia, where the average wage is the equivalent of three German marks.

Some of the teachers work extra hours in other schools. Like the children,

they are almost entirely dependent on humanitarian aid handouts for subsistance. Some teachers have themselves suffered traumas from the war, particularly those who had children involved in the

fighting. Literature teacher Biserka Jakovic said the conditions — the shortage of material, the influx of new faces - meant new methods had to be adopted, generally involving a greater degree of dialogue with the pupils.

She feit the relaunch had been somewhat ambitious for the circumstances, with too many lessons attempting to cover too much ground, but that it had not

The present period was one of transition, she said, one of preparation for the new school year beginning in the autumn.

With classes resuming at primary, secondary and university levels in all government-controlled towns, Minister Durakovic said. the main need was for materials rather than teachers.

Around half the country's educational facilities had been completely destroyed or severely damaged, he said. There was a dire shortage of textbooks and exercise books, which he hoped foreign aid would help to make good, hut he believed that pre-war levels of academic achievement would rapidly be restored.

of Chinese political comment is either bland or obscure. but this is why a book like this should be reading between the lines and looking at the ideas and dehates of the time. Indeed, there is even a need to remind readers of the international and regional context; even with events with which one is familiar, it is notoriously difficult to remember when they happened in relation to

The frustrations of this book are, it is true, occasionally compensated for by useful insights. The penultimate chapter on the 1991 Gulf War is the most interesting. discussing the dilemma China faced in trying to maintain its traditional position as a Third World leader while trying to build up economic relations with the conservative Arab states, a task in which it has failed on both

The author appears to have assembled so much material which she is anxious to include that she leaves too many unexplained references and unsupported assertions scattered through the book. Furthermore, the maps are at best unbelpful and at worst downright misleading, and there are occasional mistakes in ronunisation and in matters of fact.

There is a much more thoughtful book to he written on China and the Middle East, although this one is a useful handbook - Middle East International.

Julia Slater

Monty Python on benzedrine soothes Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — A man crouches near the water collection point, watch-

ing warily for snipers. A refugee in Zagreb writes to her brother back

Franjo Tudiman and Alija Izetbegovic sign a new Croat-Muslim federation into being.

Not obviously the stuff of humour, you might think. But this is Sarajevo, and these are the Nadrealisti -The Surrealists — performing their latest series of sketches about life, war and

humanitarian handouts. The water-carrier breaks into dance. The "refugee" is a man in a dress, with bis hair in hunches and a high falsetto. "Tudjman" plants a sloppy kiss on the pate of "Izetbegovic", who wipes it off with a grimace.

A Surrealist in a tarbush and dark glasses sings, to a Balkan folk tune, a satirical number about Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, and is warmiy applauded.

A T-shirted rocker belts out, to the tune of Born In The USA, a number about life in war-torn Sarajevo. · A boxer in white shorts returns to the fight, is battered back, returns, is

battered again, and again,

and again - Bosnia and the

beast, we understand. This is Monty Python on benzedrine, satire to a driving The rock heritage of the

past 30 years is gaily plundered, from the Gypsy Kings to the Beatles. Everything is grist to the satirical mill: Foreign TV crews, snipers, power cuts, airstrikes, peace talks, UN-PROFOR, the whole panorama of Bosnia's tragedy over the past two

Jibes about the U.N. Protection Force are particularly appreciated. The audience, many of them on the young side, are packed into a formerly bombed-out art gallery now shabbily functional. The children have only a vague notion of what the sketches are saying, but they laugh just the same, loving the sound and the colour and the movement.

The Surrealists are seven performers and four musicians, a national institution at a time when Bosnian institutions are an endangered species. Formed 10 years ago, they evolved from rock music to radio clownery and then to television, acquiring cult status throughout the former Yugoslavia.

They remained in their native Sarajevo when the conflict erupted, continuing to work throughout the war and developing their stage technique as a result of the regular electricity shortages that took television off the

They perform free, twice a week, because no-one has any money — the average salary is the equivalent of three German marks (\$2) a month - and out of solidarity and a concern to preserve "the spirit of Sarajevo.'

Like their audience, they are forced to depend on the food handouts that they

Their spokesman Elvis J. Kurtovic describes their method as "the new primitivism": A blend of American rock culture, Japanese technology and Balkan tra-

The ideas come from the street, Kurtovic says. They work out their sketches, renewing their repextoire from week to week, using the material seen and heard around them.

Things are easier for them now than three months ago: "It's hard to make humour when people are dying."

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Computing you will not fear

By Jean-Claude Elias

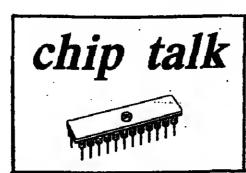
When young college students started taking interest in programming or operating large, mainframe computers back in the sixties, when even the mere concept of personal computer (PC) didn't exist, they were considered as wizards, geniuses, superior people anyway, with levels of IQ well above the common mortal.

While the "others" would look on with fear and respect, thinking of data processing as sorcery, the initiated ones were discovering that computing was just like any other science, maybe funnier to practice but certainly no more difficult than civil engineering or medicine for instance. The obscure and difficult aspect of the topic was only its newness — nothing more. This newness, precisely, was the element of attraction for the

Since there was no personal computing at the beginning, the only users were the professionals who therefore went through systematic academic studies. The layman could not even approach the subject. The world was clearly, unequivocally divided into two parts, on one hand the authorised, trained specialists, and on the other, those allowed only to watch what the first were

Enters the PC. With the democratisation and vulgarisation process, everybody gained access to the machine. The young, the old, the smart and the less smart, the trained and the unprepared. A new phenomenon, called computer phobia, became a major problem for all those who had to use a PC but were too

Since 1980, I have given computer training in Jordan to people from various groups of age, classes of society and academic background. Some of them were scared to the point of being completely blocked mentally and totally unable to assimilate even simple concepts. I have



seen young women with their hands literally shivering over the keyboard. The fear of the computer is something very real. As all kinds of fear, it comes mainly from ignorance.

Almost fifteen years later, computer awareness has made a lot of progress within the population. The widespread usage of PCs in virtually all places has greatly contributed to a better understanding of the subject and a more harmonious contact with the machine. Still, those who are not naturally inclined to technology and who have not received a proper training are still afraid of computers.

The quality of the training and the instructor's psychological approach can make the difference between a successful operation or, on the contrary, a disastrous trauma.

The best thing that has recently happened in the country (in most countries in fact) and that should normally wipe out all traces of computer phobia in the future is the introduction of compulsory computer classes in schools. Children as young as 10 are given the chance to use PCs and become familiar, feel safe and comfortable with the technology. Computers are here to stay and there is no way anybody can escape from using

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

HERE & THERE

■ In Punjab, India, four women disappeared for one full month to evade a scandal. They were arrested by the police and were charged with robbery. To warn people of such dangerous criminals, the police tattooed each one of them with the word "pickpocket" on the forehead. It was funny enough on their part to ask the police to pay compensations that would help them undergo an operation for removing the tattoos.

* * * *

■ More than 125,000 American ladies have already joined weight-lifting clubs, a fashion that prevailed in a bid to intimidate their husbands.

A Chilean woman has lately broken the world record in giving birth to children most of whom were twins or triplets. The highest birth number totalled 59 born within a span of forty-eight years of marriage. It is worthy of notice that Liontina Albino, the mother of these children, got married when she was 12 years old and continued to give birth until the age of 60.

* * * *

Because Mohammad Ali Pasha, 19th century ruler of Egypt, discovered that men were deliberately blinding themselves in one eye to avoid service in his army, he rounded them up and two special infantry regiments were formed of the one-eyed dodgers.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC **GREETINGS**

— Goodbye (G'bye) — So long. - Be seeing you. (See you). — Keep well. Arjoo laka mawfoor a - See you later (Soon). Elal-multaga fil-qareebii aajii See you again. — See you tonight/tomorrow.

Elal-multage fee hazihil laila/ghi Take care of yourself. Ihtamm besih'hatik

— OK/All right/That's right/Hope so. Wahowa kazalik/Arjoo zalik Atamanna laka nawman hadi'au — Good night. Tisbah ala khair Ablam sa'eeda Sleep well. — Happy dreams.

— Nice to see you again. Yasorroni an alqaqa thaniyatan Ahlan! --- Hello! Kaifa taseerol-omoor? How's life treating you?

_ I haven't seen you for ages. Where have you been? Lam araka monzo mudda taweela. Ayna konta?

* * * * *

TIME FOR FUN

★ I had a party for my son's fifth birthday. When it was time to go home I asked one little boy if he would like

He said, "No, thank you, I'm full up." I said, "Take one home in your pocket then." "They are full up too." he replied.

* * * * *

★ The teacher had set his class to write an essay on "A game of cricket."

After two minutes, James handed his paper in and was allowed to go home: His essay read: "Rain stopped play."

* "Waiter, waiter, this lobster has only one claw." "It's been in a fight, sir!" "Well, bring me the winner then!"

* * * * * * EVE: "What kind of a dog is that?" ADAM: "It's a police dog." EVE: "Well, it doesn't look like a police dog." ADAM: "It's in plain clothes, that's why."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- 1. What are the Pullitzer Prizes awarded for?
- 2. What does the adjective "diaphanous" mean?
- 3. What is eutrophication?
- 4. Two leading international sportsmen are nicknamed "stone-face". Name them.
- 5. The British call them the Falkland Islands. What do the Argentines call them?
- 6. What do the following have in common: killer, bottlenose, humpback, sperm and fin?
- 7. Mesopotamia means the land between rivers. Which are the rivers?
- 8. With what invention do you associate the name of Sir Christopher Cockorell?

* * * *

TRY IT ON A FRIEND

- a) Sally Blount is married to John Crown. Sally's older brother, Barry, married John's divorced mother,
- What relation is Mary to Sally? b) What relation is Barry to John?
- c) What was Mary's last name before she married Barry?

* * * *

RIDDLE-ME

My first is in WINDOW but not in PANE My second's in WAGON but not in TRAIN My third is in CHEWING but not in GUM My fourth is in KETTLE but not in DRUM My fifth is in LETTER but not in BOX My sixth is in HOLLY but not in HOCKS My whole, is a creature we often may see Delighting the children who visit the sea!

APPETIZERS

CHEESEY POTATO HAMBURGER

INGREDIENTS:

4-5 potatoes; 3/4 cup cheese, grated; 2 eggs yolks, beaten; 1/2 tsp. baking powder; flour (maida); breadcrumbs; 1 egg; salt and pepper to taste.

METHOD: Boil the potatoes. Peel and mash well, or put through a blender. Mix with cheese, egg yolks, baking powder, salt and pepper. Form into cutlets and roll in flour. Then roll in the egg, beaten with quarter cup of water, and dip in breadcrumbs. Fry in hot ghee or oil till a pale brown.

point in writing at all. Some may differ with me on various issues. This is only natural, and after all, everyone has the right to his/her own point of view. This brings me to the story of Hani. At present, he is a student studying at a public university. He was born in a sprawling refugee camp outside Greater Amman and is one of nine children. First he attended United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schools until the 9th grade and then was transferred to a government school where he completed his high school education. Since he has always been diligent and concerned for his studies, he completed his Tawjihi exams with an average of 94.6. With such a high average, he was then awarded a scholarship to one of the public universities. He is a quiet, polite yet shy student, forever attentive and conscientious. Though his scholarship pays for his tuition, he only receives JD20 to purchase books for the entire scholastic year. Not being able to afford the high price of books, he usually Xeroxes copies from his

By E. Yaghi

At times, I have chosen to question the standards of education in both private and public institutions. I always write what I believe in for if I cannot be first

honest to myself and second to my readers. I see no

ideal student for he comes to every lecture prepared and often obtains one of the highest marks in his classes in At times, he is requested along with his fellow mates, to give a presentation for the class which pertains material relevant to a particular course. His presentations are nearly professional. He has confidence, style and knows his material well. He gains the attention of both professors and students which he manages to hold

until the end of his speech, all the while, maintaining a

good eye contact with his audience, as well as writing

fellow classmates. It is only suitable to classify him as an

important facts on the board to emphasise his points. Professors must take special delight in such students as Hani, for he poses no discipline problem, is attentive. studies hard, and puts forth his best efforts in tests. In short, he is what every student should strive for. But the road to his success has not been paved with honey. It was sometimes rocky and stony, sometimes consisted of hills and mountains and sometimes raging rivers he had to cross. Yet, he managed to bear his burdens well and seldom complains. However, part of the difficulties he has faced bave been due to his instruction in English by some of his former teachers. As Hani says: "One of my English teachers was not even an English teacher, but one who studied geography. Imagine what kind of English he taught!"

What were some of the other problems in learning English as a second language? "Most of my teachers did not know how to pronounce the words properly. One of the most common mistakes was between the (b) sound and the (p). The students in turn learned the mispronunciation of words from their teachers. This habit was carried

And then there's Hani over to the university where even though professors may speak correctly, the student has a difficult time in unlearning his incorrect pronunciation of the English.

How did Hani think gaining proficiency in pronuncia-tion could then be obtained? Often, students are not given enough opportunity to practice orally during the lectures. Sometimes, they might even be reluctant to speak either from fear of being ridiculed by their peers or because some of their professors may exhibit little tolerance for mistakes. But, how can anyone learn if it is

not by making mistakes and then being corrected?"

One of Hani's solutions was to have more exposure to native speakers of English. This can be done through films, recordings, and invitations to native speakers to visit the classrooms. Native speakers not only give a perspective insight into the English language as a whole. but also act as unofficial ambassadors of their respective countries. Without even realising, these native speakers also impart something of their own culture to non-native students of the language by just being themselves.

One of the most important methods of learning a

foreign language is to speak it. It is therefore essential that all students of ESL gain the needed practice through oral participation. Also, English departments could hold debates about issues of vital interest to the students and every department should encourage its pupils to participate in an English journal, for another important element in language learning is writing which is also often neglected. When students see their names in print for something they bave endeavoured to write in a language other than their mother tongue, they not only are proud and want to show their friends and colleagues their accomplishments as well, but they also want to write more. English departments could also bold poetry and short story contests and the best works could be chosen and rewards given by presenting them to an audience of professors and students once every

As Hani says, "we must speak, not just listen. When we make mistakes, someone must correct us. How are we going to learn? We must also understand the psychology of each professor and know his methods of teaching. Unfortunately, some want their students to just memorise their lectures and repeat in exams word for word what was said. This curtails originality in the students and forces them to think in a narrow manner. One of the best means to practice oral speaking is to make presentations in front of fellow students. This forces the students to perfect their speaking skills so they won't be embarrassed in front of their peers."

Will Hani make a good teacher? Definitely, but he is hesitant because there is a problem of discipline in schools that instruct teenage students. More than likely, he will study for his Master's Degree after he gets his B.A. Whatever he does, he is sure to be one of the best if his performance at the university is any indication of the kind of positive attitude he will have on any job.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 19

8:30 Da Bent's On

Muhannad Al Jazireh reviews the London pop, rap, reggae chart toppers in his weekly music review.

Secret File

A wife gets a hitman to rid her of her husband. However, as the hitman gets greedier, he starts threatening the people closest to the wife... including her boyfricad.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Last Bastion

Friday, May 20

9:00 Scene Of The Crime

Curse Of The Twins

A man from the past shows up and demands his share of stolen diamonds; this vicious hunter soon becomes the hunted.

10:00 News In English 10:20 Middlemarch

The relations between Dorothy and her husband

11:10 Three's Company

The Holy Guest

Jack's hopes and expectations are soon baffled when he realises that the woman he is anxious to date is a

Saturday, May 21

8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-air

Not With My Pig You Don't

Philip's caring for his little pig as a child becomes the centre of a family discussion as well as an interview he gives to a magazine.

9:00 Varieties

9:30 The Campbells

liamentary elections between the two contenders Dr. James and Captain Sims results in a tie. One of them gives his winning vote to the other.

The first ballot for the par-

10:00 News In Eng

10:20 For Their Own Good

The true story of an American soldier who came home to his mother after seven years to find out how little he knew about his own mother.

Sunday, May 22

8:30 You Bet Your Life

A quiz show hosted by Bill Cosby

9:10 Stolen Lives This is the day when

Dawn's hidden secrets of her mother, Evelyn, becomes devastating news to her father. His strong disapproval turns her mother to a vicious vindictive wife who gives away her husband's own secrets at the ministry. Such scenes are still fresh in Dawn's тетогу.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Eliott

The two sisters are now back in London to run their House. However, the sudden death of a friend breaks their beart, but brings them unexpected fortune.

11:10 Feature Film -Stranger In the Mirror

The film tells the unfortunate love story between a poor girl and a rich young man who's mother doesn't approve the match.

Monday, May 23

8:30 The Nanny

Here Comes The Brood

Its brooding time for the ex-wife when she comes to visit her kids... and meets

9:10 Equinox Homes On Wheels

A documentary that traces CK the history of modic homes, or caravans, since their beginnings in the 30's

and the changes they had

the_attractive nanny.

undergone until the present

10:00 News In English 10:20 39th Eurovision Song Contest

Tuesday, May 24

8:30 Step By Step

Trading Places

Great lessons are learnt when Frank and Carol agree to trade places with J.T. & Dana in running the affairs to the house.

9:10 Moon Over Miami

The amateur detective, Gwen, surprises everyone, especially fellow Walter. when she proves his innocence in the case of a murder of a famous TV star.

10:00 News In English 10:20 The Cape Rebel

11:10 The Second Half

The Building

On a freezing winter night the building occupants gather at John's apartment to discuss how to approach the building managers to fix the broken heating system.

Wednesday, May 25

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

9:00 Prism— Local programme with Nida

Ramahi. 9:10 The Best Of Magic

Top television illusionist Wayne Dobson teams up with glamourous former model Linda Lusardi to present spectacular magic and comedy strips.

9:30 The Wrold Of The 30's

Events include: the golden days of show dances Josephine Baker; King George's Silver Jubilee in London; Unemployment; King Edward abdicating his throne and the flourishing business of the car industry in Britain.

10:00 News In English_

10:20 Poldark

Ross's plans for his mines receive a financial blow from Warligan... and unpleasant mishaps befall Elizabeth and Karen.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

You might as well fall flat on your face as lean over too far backward - James Thurber, American humorist (1894-

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life — Robert Louis Stevenson, American novelist (1850-1894). One doesn't need to be a cook to criticise the cooking-

Samuel Johnson, English writer (1709-1784). Man is his own worst enemy - Cicero, Roman orator-

philosopher (106 B.C.-43 B.C.). In peace, sons bury their fathers; in war, fathers bury their

sons - Herodotus, Greek historian (fifth century B.C.). The United Nations was set up not to get us to heaven, but only to save us from hell — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

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By George Sorley Whittet

IN THE most thought pro-

ooking exhibitions to be seen

in Loudon for many years

two Arab women are pre-

senting in their individual

works the intensely held

views they have of the som-

bre human conditions of

their homelands, both past

From Jordan Princess

Wijdan Ali already deserves

the gratitude of British art

lovers for the most compre-

bensive exhibition, "Con-

temporary Art from the

Islamic World" which she

organised at the Barbican Centre here in 1989. I first

and present.

2 Arab women artists stir London apathy

is given by presenting and students one.

REVIE

The Building

On a freezing wine the building on gather at John's w to discuss how wa the building manus

Wednesday, Na

8:30 Too Close ful 9:00 Prism

Local programmes Ramahi

9:10 The Best 01

Top relevision ! Wavne Dobson t with glamouse model Linda Lusa

semi speciaculari. comedy strips. 9:30 The Wrold Of

in Britain.

10:00 News la 10

16:20 Poldark

pleasant mishapi हार्क्डात आप Karb.

Events include # fluenced societies," he said days of shore in an interview with AFP. Josephine Bake And he added: "If I've George's Silver done a good joh to tell a London: Linem human story, then people King Edward about from other parts of the throne and the it business of the di

world will appreciate it... I wouldn't be surprised at it because we are all human." "That's why drama is so interesting because its ab-

out humanity not just be-cause were Chinese or French or British. It's a Ross's plans for the receive a finance warlingan.

ditional forms of the Arabic alphabet in a personal style akin to that of the modern calligraphic school with her immersion in the rendering of the atmosphere of cosmic space analogous in visual

noted her paintings some

fourteen years ago when she

exhibited at a small London

gallery and was impressed

by her sensitive projections

of the desert's immensity

and heat, impressions that

were renewed by the selec-

tion titled Calligraphic Ab-

stractions in the present

All in acrylic and mixed

media on paper, Princess

Wijdan Ali merges the tra-

terms to musical and poetic

modes. in striking contrast to those contemplative images. Princess Wijdan Ali's larger works commemorate and recall one of Islam's most horrendous tragedies: The massacre at Karbala of the Prophet Mohammad's randson Hussein with 77 of his family and followers by the Umayyed army. This 7th century holocaust is imagined and synthesised as pages in a chronicle inscribed in gesture strokes and continuous Arabic scripts twined along bloodred swirling clouds against the blue firmament of

This is strong stuff compared with the hland and decorative canvases on offer by fashionable dealers. But Princess Wijdan Ali's arresting pictures are more than records of history in semi-abstract terms. They are the credible and durable

ART REVIEW

reflections by a gifted witness of man's inhumanity to man more subtly evocative than figurative conceptions can ever be through the subliminal power of paint in her imagery of art.

Sharing the long room of

the October Gallery, Laila Shawa employs her media as effective instruments of information on present-day injustice and persecution, in her case the Israeli occupation of her home town Gaza and the censorship of communication between its people even by obliteration of the graffiti on the walls of the streets. Based on photographs taken on the spot; she has embodied the messages on large silk-screen prints overdrawn with ber own abstract signs stressing the irrepressible public right to be heard in its own com-

munity. Adding to the an-

thenticity of the documents-

tion English translations of the Arabic texts are avail-

Laila Shawa's series of pictures of protest began years ago in Beirut where she worked producing popular studies of the environment diverting to cover the theme of prostitution and later in Gaza to highlight the attempt by a clique there to impose the wearing of the veil by women on all occa-

"The Walls of Gaza" is now receiving wider circulation and support in the U.S.A. where prints have been shown at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. In recent years contemporary artists have almost totally neglected the theme of the human condition in its most objectionable aspects of

aggression and injustice. The October Gallery exhibitions by Princess Wiiden Ali and Ms. Leila Shawa may be seen as a welcome beacon for world peace through outstanding pictures of purpose.

The writer, a Londonbased art critic, contributed the above article to the Jordan Times. The exhibition runs until May 21.



From Hollywood To Hanoi = plea for reconciliation

HANO1 (AFP) — Tiana Thanh Nga, an American film-maker from Vietnam. has come to preview her autobiographical film From Hollywood To Hanoi — a vibrant but controversial plea for reconciliation among all Vietnamese.

Her documentary was shown recently in Hanoi be-fore a very select audience. including film-makers. Cultural Ministry officials and famous figures such as General Vo Nguyen Giap and former Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

The film expresses the feelings and follows the daily lives of "Viet Kieu" (Vietnamese expatriates) living in the United States who fled their native country after the Communist victory in 1975, but also their compatriots who stayed be-

The story evolves from the personal recollections of Tiana Thanh Nga, who has become a popular actress in Kung Fu films and is a rock singer in the United States. She comes from an elite

By Michael Thurston

Agence France Piesse

CANNES, France -

Taiwan's entry in the offi-

cial competition at the Can-

nes Film Festival tells a

story of cultural confusion

in Asia, hut which will be

appreciated worldwide, its

Edward Yang, speaking

an hour before the premiere

of "a Confucian Confusion"

here, said the film was ab-

out a specific culture, but

"I don't think its refer-

ring just to Taiwan, its re-ferring to Hong Kong,

Korea, Japan and Singa-

pore, all the Confucian-in-

has far wider resonances.

director said.

family in Saigon that was stuunchly anti-Communist and emigtated to America in 1966. Her uncle was defence minister in the former South Vieinamese govern-

Filmed over the last six years, From Hollywood To Hanoi was produced by Oliver Stone, director of such films as Platoon, Born On The Fourth Of July and Between Heaven And Earth, a trilogy on the Vietnam War.

Tiana, 33, said she was 'sad to not have received the support of her family and the Vietnamese in the United States who did not understand my intentions."

"They were hlinded hy their resentment, and they have accused the Communists of having provoked all of this," she said in Hanoi. "There is too much mis-

understanding and despair for those we want to help." she said, referring to the "hard core" of the about . two million "Viet Kieu" who refuse reconciliation.

Taiwan's Confusion: A

story tor the world

document to look back on in the future," he said.

The movie, starring new faces Chen Xianqi, Ni Shujun and Wang Weiming,

tells the story of a group of 12 former schoolfriends liv-

ing hectic professional and

The relentlessly urban setting — much of the ac-

tion is set in cars driving

from one apartment to

another in downtown

Taipei - contrasts with key

artist characters who turn

against the modern tech-

Yang says the polarity of

the setting and characters

reflects the cultural confu-

sion felt by young people not only in Taiwan, but also

other Asian democracies.

"There's a dilemma

whether you want to do

more about your life or

whether you want to accept

the intimidating pressure which puts you back in your

these societies... not the

ones that are still develop-

ing, but the ones that are

already developed, like

Taiwan, Hong Kong.

"This is basically what all

place," he said.

nological environment.

romantic lives in Taipei.

At the Hanoi screening, Vietnamese Cultural Ministry officials said they supported the film's "positive subject" and appreciated Tiana's "good will." But they expressed some reservations about showing the film throughout Vietnam and appeared affended by scenes showing the massacring of dogs, a popular meat antong Vietnamese.

There were also scenes of Vietnamese obsessed with marrying Americans, as well as scenes showing chronic depression during the dark years before Vietnam's economic opening.

"Some scenes should be adjusted to conform to the psychology of the Viet-namese," said the viceminister of culture, Vu Khac Lien, who expects a "meticulous debate" before the film is released to the geoeral public. The cultural minister is in charge of censorship.

Nguyen Co Thach, a former Vietnamese foreign minister who supports distributing the film through-

Japan, Korea... pretty soon

China is going to be in that

position. This is what is

happening in Asia.
"The West hasn't really

realised this culture change.

Every one of these states is

But he insists he is not

intimidated by seeing his

film premiered on the first

full day of the 47th Cannes

International Film Festival

- the world's biggest film-

Above all he has no ex-pectations of winning the

top prize, the Golden Palm,

he says, admitting that he

has not seen last year's

Chinese winner, Chen

Kaige's Farewell To My

chances, he replies simply:

"I don't. I'd be stupid if I

did. There's nothing I can

do now. I've done my best

to make the film. I'm happy

Asked how he rates his

Concubine.

about it.'

cracy," he added.

festival in 1987.

out the country, said: "It's a tīlm that helps reconciliation. But this will be difficult because it shows 'Viet Kieu' who retain violently

anti-Communist positions. General Giap said it "was difficult to make a film that was applauded in both Vietnam and the United

Tiana has asked for authorisation to show the film here, which she financed by selling all of her belongings.
"What good would it do

if (her film) remains in the

dark," she asked. If everything goes well, the film will be shown in November and December in Hanoi, Danang and Ho Chi Minh City, according to an official from the Commission for Vietoamese Overseas.

Tiana is also making a four-hour documentary titled The War Is Over, A New Vietnam, scheduled to be released April 30, 1995, for the 20th anniversary of the fall of



Tiana Thanh Nga

Japan's dance of pain draws crowds in Europe

By Geert De Clercq

BRUSSELS -- It may be a far cry from Swan Lake, but it is still dance.

trying to implement demo-Butob, a modern Japanese dance, is a mar-Yang, 47, is in the official competition on the Croisetginal art form at home, hut in Europe, its slow, haunt-ing images of pain and dete for the first time after an appearance in the Un Certain Regard section of the spair have a large cult following.

Developed in post-war Japan, Butoh's dance-language is very different from western modern dance.

Dancers move slowly, convulsing, their limbs twisted, bodies naked and chalked white, faces in a

grimace, an image of pain.
One of the leading Butch artists is Carlotta Ikeda, who is currently touring Europe with her troupe Ariadone.

"Yes, pain is important, life is like that," Ikeda 10ld Reuters in an interview after a performance in Brus-

Butob literally means "dance of darkness" or "dance of the sombre soul," The first Butch perfor-

mers often conjured up images of the nuclear holocaust in Hiroshima, of a Japan beaten and humiliated in the war.

Their dance language mixed the slow, shuffling steps and the grimaces from traditional Noh and Kahuki theatre with the individualistic approach of western modern dance.

"The images with which Butoh expressed fear, sadness and despair are more bizarre than any European mode of expression," said Dutch dance historian Luuk Utrecht.

But it is in Europe that Butoh is enjoying most suc-

"Butoh is absolutely not popular in modern-day Japan, it is considered underground culture there. But here in Europe we have an audience," said Eric Lousteau, Ariadone's French manager.

Other groups, such as Sankai Juku and Byakko-Sha, regularly appear on European stages.

Ikeda, now in her fifties, started studying dance in Tokyo in 1960 and took lessons from modern dance icon Martha Graham four years later. She started her own dance company Ariadone in 1974 and first toured Europe in 1978.

She has been back nearly every other year since then and now spends much of her time in the French city of Bordeaux, the home base of Ariadone's technical

Ikeda may be articulate on stage but she finds it hard to explain her art in

"In western classical dance, dancers try to fly. Butoh is the opposite, it is about touching the ground, about looking very deep within yourself," she said.

In her recent shows, Ikeda has tried to move beyond Butoh's sombre origins. "I want to put a max-

imum of life in my dance." she said. "My dance grows away from darkness to reach light."

Thirties memories on display at London exhibition

By Caroline Brothers Reuter

LONDON - No catalogue was on sale. No objects on display — and visitors were asked to bring their own exhibits.

The exhibition, mounted by four sculptors called Those Environmental Artists from the northern English city of Mancher celebrated how the property were remembered - instead of simply displaying artefacts from the time.

Viewers walked through a transparent screen of photographs copied onto sheets of flimsy gauze, and into a hanging garden of plastic news sheets suspended like jungle vines.

A sound lab full of tape recorders encouraged visitors to record their memories for broadcasting on speakers overhead.

Called Those Enivornmental Artists Examine The Thirties, the show was held in a ballroom of London's South Bank Arts Centre.

"There are no actual objects there... no attempt to present artefacts. Even the photographs are copied Onto acetate which is transparent — it is all fabri-cated," said environmental artist Peter Hatton, 37.

"Time gives objects an importance they may not have had when they were first produced. Here we are dealing with ephemeral

things, with memory." The approach was inspired by the Mass Observation Movement, set up in 1937 to hear ordinary people's views on British social life and to counteract

the ubiquitous voice of offi-By 1939, 1,500 men and women were jotting down and sending in their views on everything from ways of extinguishing matches to dreams, sexual behaviour, capital punishment and the

budget. The exhibition displayed copies of Britain's par-liamentary record Hansard, newspaper articles and

photographs. Two artists were commissioned to make sound tapes bringing in world events like the approach of war,

the 1936 abdication of King

burg airship disaster in May 1937 and the first royal Christmas message, broadcast on British Broadcasting Corporation Radio in 1932 But in keeping with mass

Edward VIII, the Hinden-

observation's aims, the displays counterpoised official memories with those of the man and woman in the street. Some 25,000 question-

naires probing people's im-pressions of the decade were printed and many posted to towns and villages across Britain.

As hundreds of answers in the form of drawings. faxes, letters or lists flooded in, they were suspended on washing lines from rows of pillars and tracked on wall-display

People were asked to hring in any 1930s family photographs to be photocopied and put on display.

"Mass observation contributed the idea that there's no one perception of any event or place," Hatton said. "There isn't one fixed point of view of

The exhibition is part of a fiesta of music. literature, art and photography titled The Thirties: Anxiety And

The works of literary figures of the decade - including dramatist Bertold Brecht and writers Virginia Woolf and Daphne Du Maurier — are being celebrated, as well as the buildings of the Bauhaus architects, the music of 1930s composers, and movies by expressionist and

Hollywood filmmakers. That programme in turn is part of a project called Towards The Millenium in which each decade of the 20th century is feted with its own arts show every year

till the year 2000. "It must have been a very strange time to live, with the war looming," Hatton

"(The decade) just seems to swing from one end of the spectrum to the other, from wealth to poverty. from hardship to luxury.

he added. "And the thing that really did hit me is that it really doesn't seem very long

Murdoch sharpens Star TV focus on China

By Peter Lim Agence France Presse

HONG KONG - Under the watchful eye of owner Rupert Murdoch, Asia's first satellite television broadcaster, Star TV, has embarked on making its own programmes to capture the vast Chinese market.

The move comes after Star, in which Murdoch's News Corp. acquired a 63.5 per cent stake for 525 million U.S. dollars last year, dropped BBC World Service Television from its East Asian service and terminated U.S.-based Viacom's music format MTV.

Star TV, founded by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-Shing's family, has re-placed them with 24-hour movies in Chinese and English to be beamed initially into Taiwan and later to the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, and Japan.

It also set up three music programmes - in Mandarin, Hindi and English. Analysis said it was a natural course for Star TV, which is heamed from AsiaSat 1, with Mr. Mur-

Paul Lee, media lecturer at Chinese University said:

doch's specific target the 1.2

hillion people in China.

"I believe they wanted to provide more programme choices to suit the vast Chinese audience first."

According to analysts, Mr. Murdoch's ultimate strategy is to get into China, but Star must first cater to the needs of 12 million Chinese in Taiwan as well as the overseas Chinese in south East Asian countries, where they number an estimated 17 million.

"There is no doubt" China is Mr. Murdoch's target, Mr. Lee said.

"China will likely welcome Star TV's new tailored-made programmes as long as it is mainly entertaining and nothing about politics," Mr. Lee said, despite restrictions recently imposed by Beijing on the installation of satellite dis-

This could mean incredible advertising resources, with growing mainlandbased firms seeking exposure to the outside world, and vice-versa.

Some analysts said the scrapping of the BBC was in response to China's anger over the broadcast of a documentary about the sex life of late party Chairman Mao Tsetong.

As for MTV, they said its western music format of iock and punk music was not to the cultural tastes of Chinese or South East Asian authorities.

James Miles, media analyst at brokerage firm Asia Equity, commented: "It is all right to say the overseas Chinese are programme testers up to a point, but it has to come to terms with the vast Asian market at the end."

The move towards the tailor-made product was probably due to success by Hong Kong's leading television station TVB, which launched a free service TVBS to cable subscribers in Taiwan last September.

"Television is a cultural thing," said Michael Chan, TVBS general manager.

"We have moved ahead to increase our programming... by iocreasing local production."

Star TV has also recently signed up a deal with TVB's rival ATV to provide more than 1,000 hours of primetime drama, non-drama and special programmes over the next three years. ATV will also provide facilities to dub programmes into Man-

"If viewers don't like the programmes, then Star TV has to re-think their strategy," said Lee, if Star

TV is bent on expanding its viewership from 170 million to 400 million in 1996 as reported.

During the nine months to June 30, 1993, Star TV posted a small loss but was 'running ahead of budget," New Corp. revealed when it

posted third-quarter profits. "Star TV is going to be an absolute winner because Mr. Murdoch is living in Hong Kong," said Sydoey-based media analyst Greg Cathro of Morgan Stock-

Industry sources in Hong Kong, which is to revert to China in 1997, said Mr. Murdoch has been busy courting Beijing officials in Hong Kong through local business tycoons who had struck gold on the main-

Mr. Cathro said Star was "perceived as being a good medium- to long-term investment," and losses in the short term were expected.

Mr. Miles agreed, considering Mr. Murdoch's talent at making profitable businesses out of the media and film industry.

"However, 1 will be surprised," if Star TV manages to stem the flood of red ink in two year's time, said Mr.

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a cook to criticise the or ish writer (1709-1784). enemy -- Cicero, Ross ir fathers: in war fathers reek historian (fifth cont. is set up not to get us not in get us not in

Laser holds promise for nearsighted people

-/ Lon Valigra Reuter

BOSTON — Each year a ouar.er-million nearsighted Americans trust a surgeon's \$.. dy hands to make tiny k cuts in their eyes to her impaired vision.

tisat radial keratoto procedure, invented e me former Soviet Union. A = 2 soon be replaced by a have system that makes the \$5. :- rain without the

procedure, called refractive ker omy (PRK), empic - Siue-light Éxcimer kse o restore the eye to its engisul phace. In clinical tests conducted since 1988, it has corrected nearsightedness so that patients can see well enough to drive a car legally without wearing corrective

"People like to be able to see their alarm clock in the morning. They are having the procedure for lifestyle rather than cosmetic reasons," David Muller. president of laser-manufacturer Summit Technology Inc. told Reuters in a recent interview. He said many patients want clear vision, particularly for sports like swimming.

Thirty members of the U.S. Navy already. have undergone the still-experimental PRK treatment, and other branches of the willtary are interested.

Mr. Muller said the laser treatment would have **Novem** valuable during the **Buff War, where some sol**cliers wore gas masks with corrective lenses. In one case, Mr. Muller said, two **soldiers** mixed up their gas masks and were unable to

Though PRK is already being used in Europe, it has yet to be approved for general use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"Since it could involve pullions of people having sargery, the FDA wanted a fotracted study," Mr. expects approval within about one year.

In the meantime, Summit and its chief competitor, VISX Inc of Sunnyvale, California, have had to contend with critics of PRK.

Summit's stock has been particularly vulnerable. Of its 10 million publicly issued shares, 3.5 million are held by short sellers betting that Summit's laser technology won't work.

But many analysts are optimistic. "I know the device works. They have data from 150,000 patients from tests over the last several years. The safety and efficacy is very high," said Smith Barney Shearson analyst Jonathan Cohen. "The market will reflect the com-

pany's prospects and profitability regardless of shortterm dislocations."

Summit quieted critics on March 21 when it won conditional approval to use its Excimer laser for a more limited application, phototherapeutic keratectomy (PTK), which could replace painful corneal transplant

surgery.
The Waltham, Massachusetts-based company subsequently sent in additional information requested by the FDA, and is now awaiting final approval, which could take until

However, the big payoff is in treating myopia. Mr. Muller is trying to get the FDA's Ophthalmic Advisory Panel to review the PRK application at its October meeting.

"Our ultimate business prospects are in getting approval for refractive surgery," Mr. Muller said. Treating diseased corneas

is a modest market compared with the wider treatment of people with myopia — several thousand diseased cornea patients a year in the U.S. compared with the millions of people who wear glasses, Mr. Muller

But the lack of U.S. approval for both applications has put the brakes on revenues. The company sells lasers for both in Europe, but that market has been weak.

The company attributes this to the continued weakness in international sales and its inability to sell Excimer lasers in the U.S. prior to FDA approval.

"This is clearly a transition year for the company, but Summit has effectively configured itself to address the wide market," said Mr. Cohen.

PRK uses an Excimer laser to reshape the eye by cutting out minute amounts of corneal tissue. The procedure, which can be done by ophthalmologists in walk-in clinics, involves scraping a small amount of epithelial tissue off the front of the eye about half the

thickness of a human hair. Afterwards the patient looks at the Excimer lases. for a few seconds to a couple of minutes. The laser uses ultraviolet light pulsing at 10 times a second to remove about 0.25 microns of corneal tissue per pulse.

Myopia is a congenital condition. PRK also is being tested for congenital farsightedness and astigmatism.

Patients have one eye done at a time, typically two months or more apart, and it takes two weeks to two months for the cornea to heal after each treatment.

Mr. Muller said it will cost \$1,500 per eye for the laser treatment.

Insuring good health in developing countries

GENEVA — Standards of health case in developing countries are still unacceptably low, according to the 1994 World Labour Report from the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Despite the improvements in recent years, infen: mortality rates are still tan times higher than in the industrial countries. If the rates in the paer countrics could be reduced to there in the rich countries, says the report, 11 million fever children would die

The industrialised market economies spend on average 9.3 per cent of GDP on heady care, but the proportion in the developing countries it often much lower: In Incle 5.0 per cent: in Sub-Sanaran Africa, 4.5 per centi and la Latin American and the Chribbean, 4.0 per ceal. though the needs may be increasing, estual beuith care excenditure has been declining in a number of developing countries — including Bangledoch, Fiji., Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Sci Loche, Trialend, Tobs-

cach your.

go and Zambia. The report examines many aspects of the provision of health care, but

looks closely at the ways of financing health systems. Funds for health care usually come from three sources. First, there is general public revenue which developing countries often use to fund basic health care for the poorest. Second, there are fees paid by the small minerity of people who can afford private care. Third, there are funds collected ... :gia social insurance schemes. The report concentrates on the potential for expanding this third

source. Social health insurance usually involves contributions from workers and employers, and sometimes from government. Its great advantage is that it pools the risk: Healthier workers can subsidise those who are more frequently or chroni-celly ill, and this "solidarity effect" is even stronger when those who can afford to pay more are asked to contribute more. Social in-

surance, as the report points out, is markedly different from individual health insurance, where an assessment is made of the likelihood of one individual falling ill — and the pre-mium can often be unaffordable.

Social insurance systems

are widespread in industrial countries. In Japan, France and the Netherlands, for example, they cover 100 per cent of the population. But in developing countries the proportions are typically anch lower: In the Philippines, for example, 38 per cent; in Colombia, 15 per cent; in Kenya, 10 per cent; and in India only 5 per cent. This is because only a small proportion of the economically active population of many developing countries works in the formal sector where it is easiest to administer such schemes and collect tegular contributions from employers and workets. Im many African countries less than 20 per cent of the workforce is in the formal sector. In Congo, for chample, taking into

account that each insured person has on average 2.82 dependents, the report estimates that social insurance could at most cover 4 per cent of the population. However there are greater possibilities elsewhere: In Zimbabwe, 29 per cent of the population could be covered; in Senegal, 31 per cent; and in Ghana, 41 per

A social insurance scheme may appear to be-nefit only a small number of workers and their dependents, but its benefits will usually extend beyond this limited group. First, because the increased health funds it generates will stimulate the health system as a whole and improve the infrastructure. Second. because it releases public funds which can be more precisely targeted on the poorest. As a result, the report finds in the last decade an increasing number of developing countries have introduced health insurance schemes - for instance, Ghana, South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand.

Some of these countries have also demonstrated how social insurance can be extended beyond the formal sector. In Thailand, for example, informal sector workers can buy health cards which entitle them to free treatment at local clinics. In the South Korea the sickness insurance scheme now covers the entire population, including the self-employed. And in Singapore the Medisave programme has been extended to cover all low-income, self-employed workers. These systems are inevitably harder to administer than those for the formal sector, since it is more difficult to register informal sector workers. And they can also entail higher charges: Those who are self-employed, for example, have

to make both employer and

employee contributions, so can pay 2 to 5 times more than salaried workers.

Any successful health insurance scheme, social or private, is likely to increase the demand for health services — as people expect attention for illnesses they might previously have left untreated. In almost every country, from the United States to China, health care costs tend to rise faster than gross domestic product and salaries. This partly reflects an increasing volume of treatment but there are also dangers that providers may take the opportunity of increasing their profits by inflating costs. So the report also assesses some of the different ways of purchasing health care.

One way is for a health service or insurance company to pay a set fee for each type of service: This is the system in China, Egypt, Germany and the U.S. Other possibilities include payment per 'case' rather than for a specific treatment - or payment at a set daily

But one method which the ILO favours, is for the purchaser to pay a set fee per person — a "capitation fee" which covers the patient for a certain period (normally one year). Hospitals in Thailand, for example, are paid a single fee for each patient who registers with them for all their health care. General practitioners in India are also paid through a capitation fee for each of their registered patients. The report argues that the capitation system is very cost-effec-

tive: It is simple to adminis-

remain the cornerstone be-

cause it's been around

longest and also because it

seems to have the lowest

potential for the develop-

However, even if success-

ful, further trials will still be

needed to test the theory

that the best hope for those

with acquired immune de-

ficieucy syndrome (AIDS) is the kind of multi-drug

dosing common in cancer

ment of resistance."

Drug firms mix new cocktails

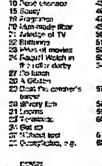
as AIDS research stalls

ter and is likely to be cheaper since it offers doctors no incentive to provide илnecessary or extravagant forms of treatment. It concedes that they may also have correspondingly less incentive to provide a high quality service, but points out that in urban areas patients who are dissatisfied can always seek another doctor (though in the rural areas it may be necessary to have another system of enforcing quality standards).

The report indicates the benefits of social insurance systems but it also emphasises the need for a "cooperative pluralistic system, including public, private and social insurance," if developing countries are to make the best use of their limited resources — World Labour Report.

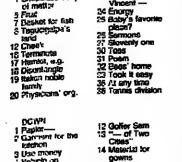
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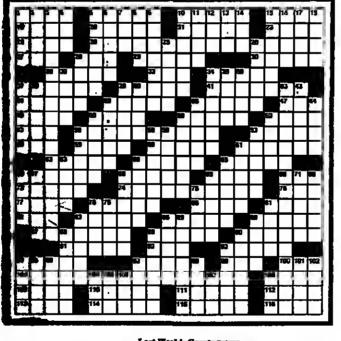
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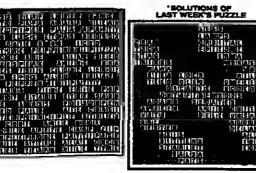
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—By Frank N. Stein



By Ben Hirschler Reuter

LONDON - Drug firms are joining forces to mix some potent new cocktails in the battle against AIDS - but a simple cure for the disease looks as elusive as

Despite the hundreds of millions of dollars a year being thrown at the problem, progress on new drugs remains painfully slow. The past year has seen more setbacks than advances.

"A critical problem appears to be the lack of good drugs in the development process," U.S. President Bill Clinton's AIDS task force noted on April

Although there are more than 100 new AIDs medicines in clinical trials, few show promise in stopping the disease.

A sign of the dearth of good candidate medicines is that the cornerstone of new "triple combination therapies" - using three drugs together - remains the controversial drug AZT, also known as Retrovir, made by British phar-maceutical glant Wellcome. Although AZT was criti-

cised again last month by scientists for failing to deliver lasting benefits to patients in the early stage of AIDS, the fact is nothing better has yet come along.

Hopes that a new class of anti-AIDS drug, known as Protease Inhibitors, might improve significantly on AZT suffered a severé blow. earlier this year when U.S. group Merck and Co Inc revealed its drug had held the virus at bay for less than six months.

So drug companies are now pinning their hopes on combining sets of three drugs with different

methods of action. The plan is simple. By sticking more spanners in the genetic clockwork of the human immunodeficiency

virus (HIV), scientists hope to bring the AIDS-causing virus to a halt.

Dr. David Barry, newly appointed head of Wellcome's worldwide research, development and medical operations, said existing data already showed two drugs worked better than one — and the aim was to amplify this with three.

Dual therapy continues to show an improvement on monotherapy, but these particular studies are hoping to pick up really very major advances," Dr. Barry told Reuters.

To test the theory, 16 pharmaceutical firms grouped under the Inter-Company Collaboration on AIDs Drug Development (ICC) are to study triple-drug combination. For the first time.

Dr. Barry, who is leading the ICC clinical trial subcommittee, acknowledged public frustration at companies' failure to deliver an effective treatment. But he said expectations had changed dramatically over

the years.
"In 1986, when AZT was introduced, adding one, two or three years to life expectations was considered long-term... Now people are looking for two to three decades," he said.

AIDS activists have given a cautious welcome to the initiative, although Nick Partridge of the British AIDS support group Terrence Higgins Trust noted there was a risk that any benefits might be offset by increased side effects.

"We're hoping for synergy between the drugs but we have to be very cautious that there isn't synergy between the side effects," Mr. Partridge said.

The new triple-therapy studies were expected to start this summer, with results available in nine to 15 months, Dr. Barry said.

Other drugs to be tested alongside AZT in the initial

In the meantime, hopes ICC triple trials are Hoffare fading that a vaccine against the killer virus will man La Roche's approved DDC and its unapproved RO 31-8959 Boerhinger Ingelheim's Nevirapine be developed soon.

"There is no doubt that Bristol-Myers Squibb Co's DDI and 3TC, which is the development of a safe and effective HIV vaccine is being transferred by Glaxo essential if we ever want to Holdings Plc to Wellcome. control this epidemic," Pe-Peter Laing, an analyst with U.S. investment bank ter Piot, director of the World Health Organisation's AIDS Research Divi-Salomon Bros, said: "Resion, told a conference in trovir (AZT) is likely to Florence, Italy, last month.

"Unfortunately, I see signs of discouragement among those working on vaccine development. They say the science is not there

More than 15 million people worldwide are in-fected by HIV, passed on through contact with infected blood or semen and Dr. Piot warned that total could triple by the end of the century.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Journalism

2. Transparent

3. The over-development of plant life in streams or

4. Tennis stars Ivan Lendle and Lester Piggot, the champion jockey.

5. The Malvinas.

6. They are all different species of whales.

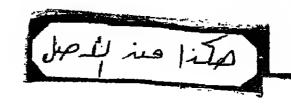
7. The Tigris and the Euphrates. 8. The Hovercraft.

PUZZLE IT OUT TRY IT ON A FRIEND

(a) Mother-in-law and sister-in-law

(b) Brother-in-law and father-in-law (c) Crown.

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Ahmad Y. Maji

author

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treat the Kingdom as a special case in recognition of fact that it had achieved strong growth in spite of the political and economic challenges of the

volatile Middle East region. "Our problem is that we are not described as one of the lower income countries. We are punished for our achievements," Reuters quoted Mr.

Fariz as saying. Lower income countries can win debt relief which effectively wipes nut half of their foreign debt - so-called Trinidad lerms - whereas richer middle-income countries like

Jordan tend to get less favour-This treatment "We hope (the Paris Club meeting), will be held in June and we hope we will get the hest possible terms," he said.

Asked if that would mean Triaidad terms, he said: "That is one option." Petra added that the agenthes "praised Jordan's development efforts, its handling of its foreign debt as well as its good economic performance in general, which was reflected

visitively in achieving reasonable rates of growth, decreased the budget deficit and balance c: payment, The participants, Petra 1eported, expressed their "faith" n Jurdan's economic ability to

move in the right direction in accordance with the economic

teform programme written out

The participants also praised

Palestinian police not to press

Abu Mohammad Mustafa

Damascus representative of

Hamas, said the Palestinian

police should disarm Israeli

to disarm our people they will

be subjecting themselves to grave dangers because our men

will not allow them to do so ...

They will kill anyone who tries

to deprive us of our right to

confront the enemy," he said, "We totally reject the dis-

arming of our Palestinian peo-

ple because occupation is still

continuing in our lands and the

settlers and Israeli soldiers are

surrounding us from every-where. We need to defend

A spokesman for the Popu-

lar Front for the Liberation of

"If the Palestinian police try

settlers and soldiers first.

their demand.

for the years 1993-1997.

Jordan's consistency in supporting the Middle East peace and contributing to stability in the region through its wise leadership which has laid the ground for spreading the principles of democracy and hu-

man rights. Due to technical problems on the ground less than half of the money offered for Jordan in 1993 was spent, leaving between \$175 million and \$190

million still to be spent this Mr. Gammoh said the pledge reflects the donor countries' and agencies' recognition of the pivotal role "Jordan is playing in maintaining the stability of the region" and its commitment to the peace process. Mr. Gammon told the Jordan Times Wednesday that France has also agreed to convert 10 per cent of Jordan's

debt to it into investment projects in the Kingdom. Mr. Gammoh, who held talks with French Ministry of Finance officials concerning the Kingdom's estimated \$550 million debt to France, said

France has "expressed support for the Kingdom" and agreed to reschedule some of the debts due in 1994. The Paris aid meeting focused on ways to ensure money allocated by donors is actually spent. It was attended by representatives of Qatar, Japan, Germany, the United States, Canada, Britain, Switzerland,

Korea and Spain as well as the

World Bank, the International

Monetary Fund and other

Palestine (PFLP) led by

George Hahash said; "Our

men will not hand over their

weapons as long as there is one

Israeli soldier or a settler in the

A spokesman for the Demo-

cratic Front for the Liberation

of Palestine (DFLP) led by

Nayef Hawatmeh said any

Israeli settlers or Israeli sol-

diers who showed up in Gaza

and Jericho would be attacked.

Meanwhile a settlers

spokesman charged that

Palestinian policemen have de-

secrated the Jewish synagogue

in the newly-autonomous en-

clave of Jericho, prompting

However, Israeli President

Saeb Erakat, a member of

synagogue and denied it had

Ezer Weizman took up the

Palestinian denials.

West Bank and Gaza."

donor agencies.

they shoot at us? Sometimes we have to shoot back. But

mostly, we try to use

The Muslim-led Bosnian

government claims the Un-

ited Nations is helping the

Serbs by its reluctance to authorise NATO air strikes.

The Bosnian government

even called on the top U.N.

official in former Yugoslavia,

Japanese diplomat Yasushi

Akashi, to quit because be

had authorised Bosnian tanks

to travel through an exclusion

Prime Minister Haris Sila-

jdzic, a Muslim, also has criti-

cised Spanish peacekeepers

for siding with Bosnian

Croats in the battle for the

Meanwhile, Danish peacekeepers, who repelled a

Serbian artillery barrage near

Tuzia on April 29, had been

helping Serb farmers and supplying Serb road repair

southern city of Mostar.

zone around Sarajevo.

reason.

Two U.N. soldiers ubserve the northern Bosnian town of Brcko (AFP Photo)

By Susan Linnee The Associated Press

Sarajevo. A hand sticking out of the

Two days later, the French officer inside the panhard APC and 30 men under his command were virtual prisoners of the Serbs after NATO launched air strikes

Odd exchanges such as this

They're accustomed to bostile treatment by the war-ring sides, as well as angry criticism from the international community for not

A French officer, who has

"Our job is to get to know the people in the area under our responsibility. To calm them down, to get them to trust us. If they detain us? If

SARAJEVO - On a recent

rainy day, a French armored persoonel carrier (APC) screeched to a halt at a Bosnian Serb checkpoint outside

left side of the vehicle held out a bottle of Bordeaux wine. It was quickly grabbed by a Bosnian Serb militia-

against Serb positions around besieged Gorazde.

one at the checkpoint between Serb-beld Hadzici and Muslim-held Pazaric sum up the surreal life of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia.

doing enough to stop the

But the 17,000 peacekeepers are spread too thin. As the war enters a third year, the U.N. role bas expanded from escorting aid convoys to separating warring parties and guarding heavy weapons impounded under ceasefire agreements.

experience in Croatia and Bosnia, summed up the mis-

Removed from politics, peacekeepers try reason spoken orders can be acted crews with precious diesel fuel.

> Such efforts to make friends with combalants or civilians on all sides of the conflict are subject to developments that on one on the ground can control. For the French in bunkers

near Sarajevo, for Swedish soldiers at the foot of Mt. Igman and Malaysians in Jablanica, the politics of U.N. peacekeeping is a murky subject best left to diplomats. "Something everyone

seems to forget is that we're military people, soldiers, said another senior French officer who also spoke on condition of anonymity. "We don't debate policy. We carry out orders." National differences some

times come into play in peacekeeping.

British; Canadian and Scandinavian armies are accustomed to a looser command structure in which on, he said. But in the French military, whose 6,500 troops make up the largest outside contingent in Bosnia, written orders are the norm. What ensues is often mass confu-

Just how confusing things

can get for peacekeepers was evident April 23 when a convoy of blue helmets formed at Sarajevo airport in a second attempt to reach the eastern enclave of Gorazde, then under Bosnian Serb attack for three weeks. Col. Bernard Roussean, a

French officer whose attempt to lead the convoy into Gorazde two days earlier had been blocked by Bosnian Serb women, looked on in bewilderment as a tall Ukrai-

nian walked up.
"I go first," declared Col." George Telezhenko. "Then you, brother, second," he said, patting Roussean on the shoulder. "Then the Spaniard — Hidalgo. Where is Hildalgo?" A Norwegian medical

corpsman scribbled notes on the required distance between vehicles, speed and who would carry the food. Mr. Rousseau had just been replaced by the Ukrai-

nian. Few seemed to understand what was happening, but all assumed it had been ordered by commanders. Lt. Herve Manificat, a French marine, was in a single corps unit that entered

Gorazde in Telezhenko's COTIVOY. He was philosophical about the troubles peacekeepers endure, including being harassed, shot at or taken

prisoner. Something has to be done to end the war, he said. "What we have to go through comes with the terri-

tory. We're soldiers."

frien official press hunderer on Wednes-

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Configued from page 1) 3. nationals travelling security arrangements, with five Druze Arah villages on the Mr. Christopher said in

nurselves," Mr. Mustafa the new Palestinian authority,

In Jerusalem on Tuesday hundreds of Jewish settlers protested against any Israeli pullout from the Golan. Meanwhile, U.S. National

ated by the parties.

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Yitzhak Rabin. Speaking to the Washington

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Mr. Christopher said: "It is very important that Chair-

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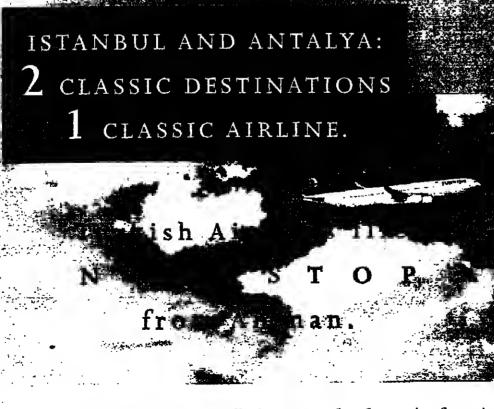
from the plateau linked to the initial return of three out of

Israel he would try "to find a common hasis between the parties" during his new talks with Syrian officials and that he had Mr. Rabin's "encouragement" to return to

Security Adviser Anthony Lake has reaffirmed a U.S. pledge to help ally Israel minimise the risks of peace with Syria, including joining in security arrangements negoti-

Mr. Lake stressed the importance of standing firmly behind Israeli Prime Minister

Institute for Near East Peace on Tuesday night, an influential think tank, Mr. Lake acknowledged questions about why the administration is intensively pressing for an Israel-Syria peace agreement this



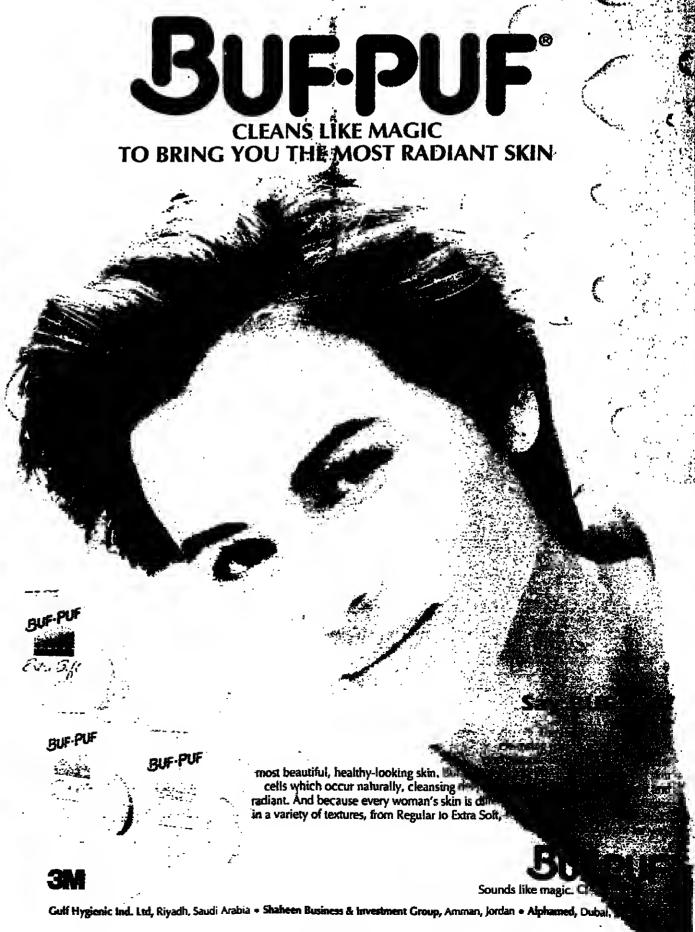
With either destination, we offer the roomy comfort of our modern fleet and

our super Business Class service - not 10 mention our traditional, warm Turkish hospitality that makes every trip on Turkish Airlines a classie!

AMMAN - ANTALYA 1/9/06 - 28/08] Departure Arrival SUNDAY | 05:15 07:10 Oeparture | Arrival

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Jordan Phosphate Mines Company loses JD20 million

By Samir Shafiq Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Following three years of declining profits, Jordan's leading industrial combe the Kingdom's main earner of foreign exchange, recorded a JD 20 million loss in 1993. The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC),

which in 1992 made a net profit of JD 16.1 million, had been in financial decline since 1990 after posting the highest net pro-fit of JD 107.2 million in 1989.

According to the JPMC's 40th annual report covering 1993, last year's adversities resulted from market liberalisa-tion in India, low consumption in the U.S. and large supplies of fertilisers from the former Soviet Union at extremely low prices which did not reflect the

actual production costs. Noting that the situation in 1993 was a continuation of the ative effects resulting from the economic and political changes which swept the world since the beginning of the 90s,

PROJECT MANAGER

through a clearing bank.

Jordan market. - -

and BSP procedures.

BANK SETTLEMENT PLAN - JORDAN

the report pointed out that markets in eastern Europe remained constrained for lack of foreign exchange.

The report also pointed out that countries in western Europe were still moving to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers for economic and environmental reasons.

All these factors combined contributed to raising the volume of supply on the international market far in excess of demand, heightening the sharp competition among producers and causing prices to dwindle to levels unprecedented in the past 20 years.

Under great economic pressures and to avoid further losses, many industrial companies, engaged in the produc-tion of phosphatic fertilisers, were forced to close in Europe and the U.S.

Other companies in the U.S. formed commercial and marketing coalitions to cut production and selling costs in

The airlines operating in Jordan including Royal Jordanian are complet-

ing a feasibility study to implement the BSP in Jordan; A scheme to

organise the remittances of Travel Agency ticket sales to the airlines,

Initially the post will be daily part time (half day) pending the approval of

the feasibility study towards the end of 1994. Thereafter and subject to

confirmation by the BSP Steering Panel, the post will be confirmed as full

A minimum of 15 years experience in airline sales and marketing,

3. Adequate knowledge of IATA Agency Procedures and Resolutions

1. Knowledge of airline ticketing and/or travel agency accounting

Excellent command of the English language both written and spoken.

7. A high personal reputation and standing and smart physical appear-

Details of salaries and benefits will be provided after the initial selection

Written applications including curriculum vitae and references should be

6. Good relations with the airlines and travel agents in Jordan.

finance or travel agency automation, 10 years of which must be in the

Candidates applying to this post should have the following:

2. Attended relevant IATA Sales and Ticketing courses.

received by June 9 to the following address:

Chairman BSP Feasibility Study Panel

c/o information Systems & Services Dept.

procedures and ability to review computerised reports.

order to maintain their presence in the fertiliser market. The report highlighted that

JPMC began facing difficulties in India, one of its main markets. Political developments here allowed new competitors. such as Israel, to enter the

Other developments in India were the adoption of a market liberalisation policy and the lifting of the fertiliser subsidy. Both of these measures. squeezed the consumption capacity and capabilities of the Indian consumers.

Against all of this international background and taking into consideration the stiff competition from Morocco, Israel, Algeria, Egypt and Syria, JPMC's exports dropped by 16 per cent to 3.6 million tonnes, its lowest level since

According to the report, the overall international volume of phosphate traded recorded its fourth consecutive decline as it fell to 24.4 million tonnes in 1993 compared to 29.5 million tonnes in 1992. The amounts in

IORDAN

В

1991 and 1990 were 31.5 million tonnes and 37.0 million tonnes respectively.

Another indication of the massive decline in world exports of phosphate was shown in the report to be a 46.5 per cent fall from 44.0 million tonnes in 1989 to 24.4 million tonnes in 1993.

Traditional markets for Jordanian phosphate lowered their imports by 7.6 per cent. Exports of fertiliser from the industrial complex in Aqaba amounted to 526,953 tonnes compared to 558,000 tonnes in

In financial terms, JPMC earned JD 94.8 million from phosphate sales and JD 54.7 million from fertiliser sales. The total, JD 149.5 million, was 27.5 per cent lower than. the JD 206.1 million earned in

After deducting operational costs, JPMC ended up with term debt. JD 3.3 million loss in 1993 compared to a JD 30.7 million

gross profit in 1992. Other moomes and expenses gave rise to the 1993 net loss of JD 201.1 million compared to the JD 16.1 net profit posted in

Other figures appearing in the 1993 balance sheet of the company show the following:

JD 176.4 million in current assets of which JD 78.2 million are receivables. JD 30.1 million of spare parts and supplies and JD 47.7 million worth of products.

- JD62.0 million of fixed assets after depreciation. JD 45.0 million in payments on projects under execu-

— JD 147.8 million in total shareholders' equity.

- JD 62.0 million of long-

- JD 98.0 million in current habilities of which JD 11.9 million in short-term debts, JD 31.4 million bank credits and JD 26.7 million of accrued

Although JPMC had JD 34.2 million of obligatory reserves, JD 52.4 of voluntary reserves and JD 27.0 million of other reserves, the company did not distribute any dividends for 1993. In 1992. JPMC distributed JD 5.1 million in dividends.

In addition to the difficulties faced in outside markets, JPMC said it was also burdened on the local scene in areas of employment, transportation of phosphate and payment of mining fees and other higher charges on "industrial water" and fuel.

JPMC pointed out that it had to pay JD 1.1 million of fines on excess loads related to axial weight on top of higher transportation charges which could not be avoided as a result

of amending load limits.

As such, the cost of transporting one tonne of phosphate by truck from Al Shidiyeh mine to Aqaba rose from JD 2.350 to JD 2.585 while the transportation cost from Al Abyad mine to Aqaba inereased from JD 2.450 to JD 2.620.

Consequently, overall road and rail transportation costs. including fines, amounted to JD 13.3 million in 1993 compared to JD 16.2 million in

JPMC's report mentioned that the company was employing many people "as a contribution to provide iob opportunities to various qualifications and specialisations."

The number of employees at the end of 1993 totalled 5,667 compared to 5,564 at the end

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 19, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get rid of some strange condition at home and maintain concord there as you avoid one who wishes to harm you. Be more precise with persons what you share a great deal in common. Meditate on lofty precepts.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Situations arise that give you a better picture of your rela-tionships with associates. Show others you have wisdom beyond

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan how to establish more harmony with fellow associates and everything will work out bener in the future for those concerned. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Make sure that you are handling financial matters wisely. Spare time should be spent at amusements with congenials you wish to be around. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) Try to give more thought to home improvements and in-crease harmony with close ties. Express happiness being around those you love.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't invest more money than you can afford in a new enterprise or you could regret it later. Don't neglect to pay your bills. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look into the detailed part of a financial matter and be

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation sure you understand it thoroughly. Sidestep a troublemaker you

are in contact with. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study details of any plans you have made and correct possible errors. Be sure business affairs are running smoothly at

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Gain favours from your friends since they are in a fine mood for such now, Make the evening a happy one for those beneath your roof.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are desirous of gaining aims that are vital to your existence, but first study every angle involved in any

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Put your talents to work and make a fine impression on higher-ups. Express happiness with your loved one at home tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Plan to meet talented persons who can help you advance in career maners. Avoid heavy expenditures of money or there won't be arr

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An ideal day to keep promise made and clear the slate, be it in business or personal life. This is not a good day to take risks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 20, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES The Sun enters Gemini today under positive aspects bringing unexpected benefits and a quick answer to a pending situation that needed resolving. Go with the flow especially where new

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't be forceful with others who disagree with your views. Come to a better accord with fellow associates. Be wise to what needs to be done.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Listening to suggestions of associates is wise now and be sure to cooperate more Mth them. Try to be helpful to others

GEMINE: (May 21 to June 21) Schedule your duties wisely and then carry through with them in a positive manner. Don't waste time over any problem situation. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may want to have a good time now, but it's to your best interest to save money now instead of spending it foolishly. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have 10 be diplomatic at home today to avoid trouble. Study a new project well since it is bound to have some flaws connected with

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be tactful with others so that they don't take their ire out on you. Avoid a tendency to splurge when you can't afford it. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have to be careful in the handling of investments and other financial matters to avoid trouble at this time SCORPIO: (October 23 to

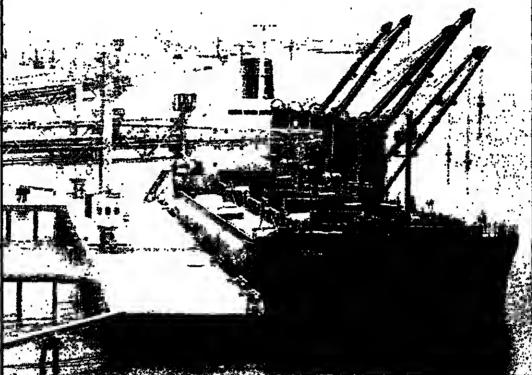
November 21) Be more thoughtful of others in going after your aims and avoid unpleasantess. Take steps to improve your health at this time. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22

to December 21) Kee personal worries to yourself since others have their own problems to think about. Think constructively on what you need to do.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take advantage of an opportunity coming your way which could give you added in-come. Strive for happiness in

AOUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Study new activities that interest you early in the day but don't make decisions until the evening when the timing is much better.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put off until tomorrow an activity that is concerned with mproving your welfare. Take positive steps to gain your goals you are attempting.



Loading a ship with phosphate at Aqaba port (File photo)

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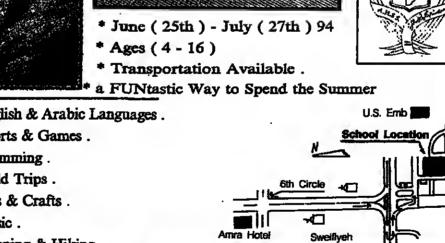
Swimming .

Field Trips .

Arts & Crafts

Music .

Camping & Hiking .



Peanuts

P.O.Box 302

Amman - Jordan









Andy Capp





Mutt'n'Jeff

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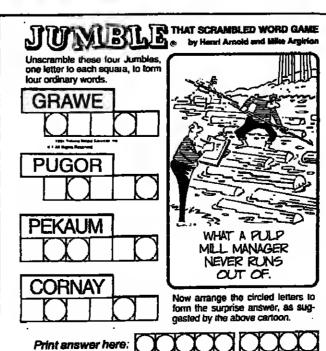


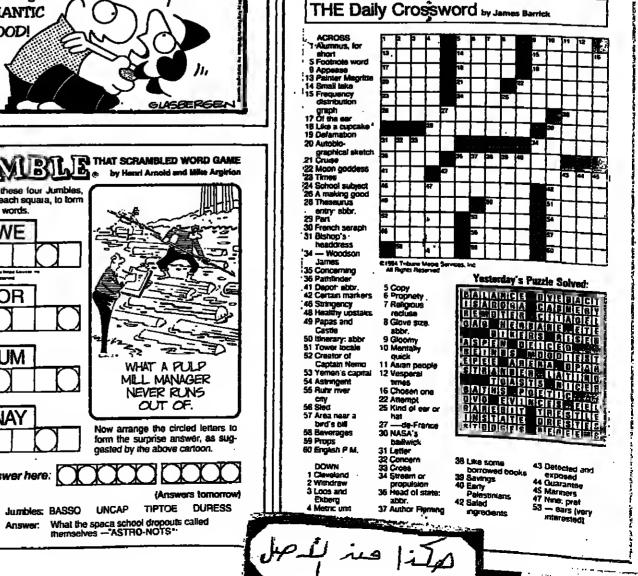












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e with some heat.

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Israeli network. Aut. of embellishmens and on, yet Israeti hesitate to draw it where the trapping conceivably be out symbols of soverage Likewise, the Me Monetary Authors.

was created by the iz nomic accord on h 1994. is presumei: something of a const but the Palestmans nied the right to be own currency. Means: phrase "economic or tion which appear quently in the Day, utilised by Israel #: the continued depend the Palestinian cont that of Israel. Cope is hardly the descript relationship between nomy with a subdomestic product (GX another with a me GDP, two-thirds of derived from work is This kind of cooperat be used by Israel 1025 against Palestinin sindependence and p force the solid restrict political independen

well. The public discours past two months have clear that whatever 8. existed for the negot from the Palestine Council (PNC) of the Central Council 8 1 doubt. The most re-itiative by the Mores Reform and Denner the territories control Cairo agreements a conferred legitimes of al measures unde Israel during the past of occupation. Those itially signed is performer negotiators among them Haid Shafi. They appealed Palestinian people us es the Court something er the Carro agree binding and mile The movement is the to emerge as a distribute territories, office

alternative to Mr. Arafat conducts begin the 11 c. and lord rethe territories, But in the issue of Arafat conducts beginning the U.S. and Israel is the U.S. and Israel is the U.S. and Israel is the unit of the acceptance of the acceptance of the repretation shaulting coords has paleous post-Madrid paleous and the same of the unit of th sensus. Also, him and him and him and him of terrorism and accepted Washington tates as to which and commendation ories require con Mr. Arafal has a abdicated his role st ised and distilk entitled to red

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	67, 621 90, 690	2.030	1.930	1.0
CHIPPER BANK	94.690	4.130	4.130	0.[3
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			3.790	2.63
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ORDAN INDUSTRIES & METCR/JERGO	7.014	1.030	1.000	1.05
ATTOMAL CABLE & WINE MACUPACTURES	1.310	4.100	4.433	
DAS CEPTER POR PEREN, & CHEMICALS	7,474	3.170	3.133	
ANTERN PROCESSOR FROM THE PROCESSOR OF T	432	0,790	0.763	0.77
ANTER TEVENTHERT STVENSAL MODERN LECTRIFICAL	443 143,731	2.210	3.310	4.00

Jordan Times Financial in co-operation with Markets

Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo CLose
<u></u>	17/5/94	18/5/94
Sterling Pound	1.5025	1.5040
Deutsche Mark	1.6720	1.6741
Swiss Franc	1.4225	1.4230
French Franc	5.7290	5.7245**
Japanese Yen	104.53	104.18
European Curreny Unit	1,1531	1.1545**

farocurrency lateres		Diams 18/5/1994		
Currency	J MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dolfar .	4.1300	4.3400	4.6900	5.2500
Sterling Pound	4:8100	4.8800	5.1300.	3 5.5600
Deutsche Mark	5.0600	4.8800	4.7500 -	.4.7500
Swiss Franc	3.7500	3.7500	3.7500	3.7500
French Franc	5.5000	5.3100	5.2500	5.2500
Japanese Yen	1.5800	1.9400	2.0000	2.1900

European	Carrency Unit	5.750	00 5.620	0 5.5600	5.560
laterbank bed	rate for amounts o	ererding 1:3	Dellars 1,00	0.000 or equipme	mil.
Precious i	Metals			Date: 18/	5/1994
Precious i		JD/Gm ²	Metal	Date: 18/	5/1994 JD/Gm

Central Rank of Jordan Exchange Rate Sulle Date: 18/5/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7000	0.7020
Sterling Pound	1.0500	1.0552
Deutsche Mark	0.4170	0.4191
Swiss Franc	0.4910	0.4935
French Franc	0. 1219	0. 1225
Japanese Yen"	0. 670C	0.6734
Dutch Guilder	0.3716	0.3735
Swedish Krona	****	****
Italian Lira"	0.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	****	*****

* Per 100

Other Carrencies	Duta: (8/5/1994			
Сигтепсу	Bid	Offer		
Babraini Dinar	1.8400	1.8580		
Lebanese Lira	0.040345	0.042537		
Saudi Riyal	0.1863	0.1882		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3600		
Qatari Riyal	0.1898	0.1907		
Egyption Pound	0.2075	0.2250		
Omani Riyal	1.7970	1.8200		
UAE Oirham	0.1898	0.1907		
Greek Drachma*	0.2645	. 0.3175		
Cypriot Pound	7.3155	1.4150		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednes-

day. U.S. \$1.00 costs One sterling	1.3760/70 1.6660/70 1.8682/92 1.4137/47 34.25/29 5.7040/90 1590.6/2.1 103.82/92 7.7100/00 7.2080/30 6.5180/30 \$1.5042/52	Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns
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\$379.70/380.20

One ounce of gold

U.S. raises discount rate to 3.5 per cent

WASHINGTON (R) - The Federal Reserve (Red) raised the key discount lending rate Tuesday for the first time in five years in a bid to check inflationary pressures in the economy and calm nervous

financial markets. to an announcement that had been widely anticipated.

WASHINGTON (Rt -

Poverty dogs many Americans

of Asian Pacific descent de-

spite stereotypes portraying

them as climbing quickly up

the U.S. economic ladder, a

study released Wednesday

American household with an

annual income of \$75,000 or

more, there is roughly another

with an annual income below Stitzert," the report said

The 300 page study was con-

ducted by the Lean Asian Paci-

lie American Public Policy In-

stitute, a Lis Angeles-based

community group, and the

UCLA Asian American Stn-

boosted the discount rate to 3.5 per cent from 3.0 per cent. effective immediately.

the more important federal

the U.S. central bank said it

U.S. survey finds poverty among

many Asian- Americans

A Fed spokesman said the increase in the discount rate the rate at which the Fed lends money to commercial banks should translate into a rise in

analysis of its kind, it disputed

the view of Asian Pacific

Americans as having "made it"

in the United States by dist of

hard work, dedication and

comprise about three per cent

of the population but account

for seven per cent of U.S.

scientists and engineers, the

survey said, based on 1980

But it said 14 per cent at

Asian Pacific Americans heed

below the powerty line in 1969,

about one and half times high-

er than the propulation of non-

Hispanic wintes. The poverty

line was \$12.674 for a family of

Asian Pacific Americans

strong family networks.

census data.

funds rate, at which baoks lend money among themselves. That would push the Fed funds

rate up to 4.25 per cent. Following the Fed's announcement, major banks including Citicorp, the largest U.S. banking company, raised their prime lending rates by half a point to 7.25 per cent.

the Jap was even greater in

Los Angeles, San Francisco,

Oakland and New York, which

together are home to as much

as 60 per cent of all Asian

In these cities, their poverty

rate was about twice as high as

that for non-Hispanic whites,

13 per cem versus seven per

cent. On the other hand, a

much larger 22 per cent of blacks and 24 per cent of Lati-

any lived below the poverty

line in these spets, the study

It said changing immigration

policies had brought in highly

educated groups from Asia and

Paralle Americans.

First Chicago and Bank of New York also acted swiftly.

The central bank's action was cheered on Wall Street. where stock and bond prices surged on what investors saw as the Fed's strong antiinflationary stance and an end to the uncertainty over its next

the Pacific as well as the poor and unskilled. Nationally, 23

per cent of Asian Pacific

Americans, age 25 and over

have less than a high school

Hindering their advance-

ment is limited English-

speaking ability, lack of trans-

ferable skills and "differentiat"

treatment based on race, the

While southeast Asians

make up 13 per cent of the

total Asian Pacific population.

refugees from Vretnam. Laos

and Cambodia account for up

to \$7 per cewnt of all Asian

Pacific Americans on welfare

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degree, it said.

survey said.

Fed's move would not affect its forecast for continued economic growth, and President Bill Clinton, perhaps bowing to the inevitable, seemed to acquiesce to the move beforr it even took place.

Mr. Clinton told reporters before the Fed's announcement that he was confident 1994 would be another good year for the economy "and that we will be able to offset any modest increase in interest rates with increased growth."

With the economy starting to approach full capacity, the Fed wants to slow growth to a long-term sustainable rate of about 21/2 per ceot. Over the past two quarters, annualised growth has averaged 4.8 per

tion is to be kept down Inflation currently does not seem to be a problem. In

April, consumer prices ross just 0.1 per cent. But traising rates now, the Fed hopes to keep price pressures in check. extending the length of a gradual economic expansion. It was the fourth time in as

many months that the central bank had moved to raise the federal funds rate. But it was the first action on the discount rate this year.

Bond markets had unpredictably to the F vious three rate moves prestock prices fell. His will terest rates make stocks in attractive relative to other





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The French Pianist Sebastien Cornut

Winner of the First Award of The Conservatorie National De Paris will hold a piano recital in Amman on Friday 20th of May, at 8:00 p.m. at the Philadelphia hotel

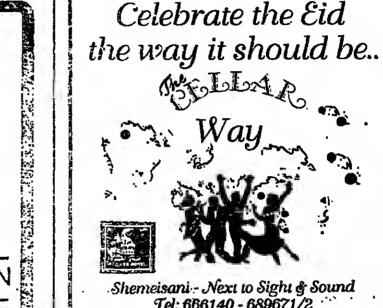
On the programme: Mozart, Schumann, Liszt, Scriabine, Debussy Tickets JD 5 at Philadelphia Hotel Tei. 607100

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"Association Des Diplomes Jordaniens De France"







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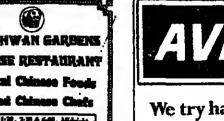
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Bosnian Serbs appear ready to accept four-month truce

Serbs, repsonding to calls by major powers keen to restart the floundering peace process, have indicated they are ready to accept a four-month truce in Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovari Karadzic said Tuesday night after meeting mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg in Serb-held Zvornik that his side wanted agreement on a comprehensive ceasefire in Rosmia to be signed soon.

Karadzic said: "We disdissed a possible comprehensive agreement on a cessation of hostilities which should be signed soon unconditionally. We accepted that from the declaration of the ministers from Geneva. We want the war to end.'

Ministers from Russia, the United States and the European Union, developing their first joint strategy for Bosnia, called last Friday in Geneva for a Your-month ceasefire and new negotiations to start with-

Muslims object, saying a four-month truce would cement Serb gains in Bosnia amounting to 70 per cent of territory.

Exasperated by the deadlock, France, the largest contributor to the U.N. force in former Yugoslavia, said some of its 6.800 troops would be pulled out if progress towards a settlement was not made.
Mr. Karadzic also warned

Netherlands

VIENNA (R) - Germany and

the Netherlands said Tuesday

the Conference on Security

and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) should be beefed up to

tackle emerging conflicts on

the European continent more

effectively German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and his Dutch

counterpart Peter Kooijmans told CSCF diplomats in Vien-

na that the 53-nation body was

not a talking shop but a

framework for a lesting secur-

Mr. Kinkel said the war in

Bosnia had done more than

any other recent conflict to

undermine public confidence

"But it is no good blaming

the international organisations

for they are only as strong and

successful as their member

states are willing to make them," Mr. Kinkel said.

He said a CSCE summit in

Budapest in October provided

an opportunity for member

states to grengthen the role of the CSCE as an instrument for

conflict prevention.

If the CSCE wishes to be a

credible security organisation

. It must be able to take reso-

lute action in response to the

threat of the use of force

against the sovereignty or ter-

ritorial integrity of a member

Mr. Kinkel said the CSCE

should strengthen links with

the United Nations and the

Budapest summit should agree

if necessary, without the

approval of the parties to a

conflict - to refer to the

Security Council any member

state found to be violating a

prohibition against the use of

The CSCE, with a mem-

bership stretching from Cana-

da to Kyrgyzstan, currently

operates on a consensus basis

which critics charge has ren-

dered the body weak and in-

Mr. Kinkel said member

states should accept measures

the Security Council deems

necessary to maintain peace

and security and other Euro-

pean security bodies should be

required to help support en-

He did not specifically men-

The CSCE originated in the

1970s and was for many years a

forum for wrangling over hu-

man rights between East and

tion the NATO alliance by

name as one of the enforce.

forcement measures.

ment organisations.

West.

..__devel∩

effective.

state, he said.

in the international community

to take effective action.

ity system in Europe.

Germany,

call for

stronger

the international community to stop a major Muslim offensive in the region surrounding the Muslim stronghold of Tuzla in northern Bosnia.

Muslim military commanders said their week-long advance was now threatening to cut off a vital Serb supply route in eastern Bosnia from Serbia to the Serb political headquarters in Pale, just outside Sarajevo.

A mortar bomb hit the U.N.-controlled Sarajevo airport Wednesday in blatant violation of the NATOimposed heavy weapons exclosion zone around the Bosnian capital, the United Nations

There was no immediate in-formation on whether the 82 mm mortar was fired by Serb or Muslim forces ringing the U.N. spokesman Major

Dacre Holloway reported "nodamage, no casualties" following the attack at 0923 GMT and said the airport remained

U.N. officials have expressed concern that the 20 kilometre heavy weapons exclusion zone imposed in February around Sarajevo could start to erode unless momentum for a political settlement to the two-year-old Bosnian war is recovered.

The Serbs however repeatedly ignored Tuzla's status as U.N. safe area and shelled the city centre and airport, most

TOKYO (R) — Japan's most

powerful fleet is to take part in

this year's U.S.-led Rimpac

war games, which have taken

on new meaning with the

looming crisis over North

weapons programme.

Korea's suspected nuclear

The navies of South Korea,

Australia and Canada are also

joining the manocuvres, held

every two years and starting on

May 24 in the Pacific near

Highlight of the six-week

event is to be a simulated

battle between opposing fleets

on the high seas in mid-June

involving about 50 vessels, 200

a Japanese navy spokesman

battle groups and Japanese and

South Korean vessels and

planes will "fight" an "enemy"

fleet of Canadian and Austra-

lian warships and aircraft, the

The first Rimpac, short for

Pacific rim, took place in 1980

in response to the growing

presence of the Soviet blue-

water navy in the Pacific.

South Korea took part for the

have taken on a new dimen-

sion," military commentator

and author Haruo Fujii said.

"It used to be a preparation

WASHINGTON (Ageucies)

U.S. Marines are to hold man-

ocuvres in the Caribbean on an

ercise is unrelated to the situa-

tion in Haiti, Pentagon officials

Defence Department

spokesman Dennis Boxx said 650 Marines were involved in

the manoeuvres of undeter-

mined duration on the assault

ship Wasp, due to leave its base in Norfolk, Virginia.

undisclosed number of helicop-

ters, was to make stops at U.S.

naval bases at Guantanamo

Bay, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

ocuvres should not be inter-

Mr. Boxx said the man-

reted as a curtain raiser to a

U.S. invasion of Haiti, which

has been raised as a possibility

by President Bill Clinton and

urged by some members of

Congress to restore democratic

"The ship is simply under-going refresher training... It

has come out from overhaul

and it is now conducting re-

fresher training," Mr. Boxx

The Marines will be on

board because "That's all part

of the orientation of the unit."

Meanwhile, to implement its

new policy of giving Haitian

refugees a hearing before forced repatriation, the United

States said it had chartered two

Ukrainian-flagged ships for use

as floating immigration cen-

Mr. Boxx said.

The craft, which carries an

hibious vessel, but the ex-

U.S. Marines to hold

manoeuvres in Caribbean

"Since 1990. Rimpac games

spokesman said.

first time in 1990.

Two U.S. aircraft carrier

5-nation Pacific war games

take on new meaning

recently Tuesday, risking NATO air strikes and forcing the U.N. to postpone one flight scheduled for Wednesday morning.
The U.N. said however it

would nevertheless keep on flying to the Bosnian government's northern stronghold and a spokesman said the cargo planes would be accompa-nied by NATO Jets.

Seven Serb tank rounds struck Tuzla Airport Tuesday minutes after the arrival of the first U.N. plane there since the airport was officially reopened in March.

No one was hurt although one of the shells landed some 200 metres from the plane which brought in U.S. radar. The local U.N. commander

in Tuzla was angry after U.N. officials Tuesday turned down his request for air strikes, U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo Roh Amnink said. The weather was clear, the

target was identified hut Bos-nia U.N. Commander Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose and U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi together made the decision not to call in air support after speaking with Serh political and military leaders, Maj. Annink said.
"We were prepared with tac-

tical planes in the air who could spot the target... we did not retaliate. Because the answer (to U.N. appeals) was sufficiently positive enough and the attack stopped;" he

against a foray by the Soviet

Pacific Fleet, but now it is

aimed at strengthening navy

ties to deal with post-cold war

year, the games serve as a sort

of preparation for a possible

naval blockade against North

The Japanese navy and gov-

ernment, however, maintain

there is no relation between

the North Korean issue and the

"This is a regular naval exer-

cise," the navy spokesman said. "It has nothing to do with

of the most powerful of its four

eight-ship, deep-water fleets.

its flagship is Japan's largest

and newest warship, the 9,485-ton Kongo, commissioned last

year. Despite its size. Kogno is

Kongo is the only ship out-side the U.S. Navy equipped

with the American "Aegis"

anti-aircraft and anti-missile

defence system, designed to

detect, track and destroy up to

20 different targets at the same

accompanied by a submarine.

a supply ship and eight P-3C Orion anti-submarine patrol

planes, the navy spokesman

people.

The cost of leasing the ships is between \$29,000 and \$34,000 a day, not including fuel and other costs, Mr. Boxx said.

The U.S. Coast Guard Tues-

day returned 150 more Haitian

boat people who tried to reach

Florida because the new policy

of screening refugees at sea

Despite Pentagon denials, rumours that the United States

is about to launch armed in-

manoeuvres had nothing to do

with major recent exercises off

the U.S. east coast involving

44,000 men. The Boston Globe

reported that the manoeuvres

had been a mock invasion of

Haiti, something the Pentagon

President Bill Clinton has

asked British Prime Minister

John Major for permission to

use the British-owned Turks

and Caicos Islands to process

Haitian boat people fleeing to the United States, the

Washington Post reported

Quoting unidentified U.S.

officials, the paper said Mr.

Major told Mr. Clinton, who

made the request in a tele-

phone call Monday, that he

would give the matter careful

While the officials went out

of their way to stress that Mr.

Major had not turned Mr.

Clinton down, one source told

Wednesday.

consideration.

Mr. Boxx said the Wasp's

tervention in Haiti persist.

was not yet in place.

The Japanese fleet will be

classified a destroyer.

the North Korean issue."

"It is correct to say that this

regional conflicts."

Korea." Fujii said.

Maj. Amnink also said Turkish and Pakistani troops could be used to bolster the U.N. presence around Tuzla.

This is bound to anger the Serbs who see Turkey as taking sides with the mainly-Muslim government in Sarajevo.

NATO carried out two air strikes against Serb troops attacking Gorazde a month ago, but the United Nations has been anxious not to escalate the fighting by calling in more such raids as Bosnian peace talks hang in balance. Meanwhile United Nations

civilian police were investigating the killing of a Ukrainian soldier shot dead while guarding a U.N. post near Gorazde, a U.N. military spokesman said Wednesday.

The Ukrainian died about 30 minutes after being shot by an unknown assailant south of Gorazde town Tuesday, the U.N. Protection Force (UN-PROFOR) said in Sarajevo. He had been guarding the U.N. base for Ukrainian

troops deployed in Gorazde as part of a multinational contingent to enforce a ceasefire between Muslim-led and Serb The Ukrainian was shot in the abdomen and chest. A Nordic medical team arrived at

the scene for emergency treatment but the soldier was pronounced dead, Maj. Holloway

Report: Hundreds of new prisoners in Chinese iails

BEIJING (AFP) - Hundreds of previously unknown prisoners, arrested after the 1989 crackdown on China's prodemocracy movement, are serving lengthy jail terms, a human rights report said Thursday.

The publication of the report by U.S.-based Human Rights Watch/Asia, which also provides harrowing accounts of widespread torture in Chinese prisons, comes weeks before Washington must decide whether China has made the necessary progress on human rights to warrant renewal of its preferential trade status.

The 60-page report, entitled The Price Of Obscurity In China, documents almost 500 cases in Beijing alone of previously unrecorded sentences handed down to individuals in the aftermath of the June 4 Tiananmen Square massacre.

More than 200 are still languishing in two correctional facilities run by the Beijing authorities — Beijing No. 2 Prison and Qinghe Farm — performing hard labour and often subject to torture and other abuses.

Almost none of those listed are students or intellectuals and most have received 10 years to life terms, which are far harsher sentences for their involvement in the 1989 protests, the report said.

"We can safely assume that" thousands of prisoners whose ton, he said. names we do not know still languish in prison for their role m those protests."

ditional. He has rejected a five-point peace plan devised by King Sihanouk. Mr. Hun Sen cast an immediate shadow over the likelihood of success at Pyongyang saying the talks would be based

Cambodia leaders to attend peace talks

a ceasefire should first be de-

Mr. Khieu Samphan then

said any talks should be uncon-

clared.

A Bosnian Serb soldier fires a machinegun from

his position on a front line in the Majevica

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Cambodia's top officials will attend a new roundtable peace

summit in the North Korean

capital this month, but diplo-mats and government officials

Wednesday expressed doubts

Yes we will go - three

about its chances of success.

people," said Second Prime Minister Hun Sen. The three include himself, first Prime Minister Prince

Norodom Ranariddh and

National Assembly Chairman.

Mr. Hun Sen said the Khmer

Rouge's nominal leader Khieu

Samphan had so far not replied

to an invitation to attend,

although the siting of talks

outside Cambodia was wel-

Cambodia's political leaders

were at Phnom Penh Interna-

tional Airport to hid farewell to head of state King Norodom Sihanouk, who left for Beijing

Wednesday to renew his

medical treatment for a range

King Sihanouk, reversing an

earlier threat to disassociate

himself from the country's

political strife, Tuesday proposed a new round of "uncon-

ditional" peace talks to be held

at his palace in Pyongyang from May 27-31.

"As the ceasefire I have

proposed cannot be realised at

the moment, I have proposed a.

round table (without a cease-

fire precondition) at my resi-

dence of Chhang So On in Pyongyang in 10 days," he

King Sihanouk had earlier

proposed a conference be held

outside Cambodia to satisfy

Khmer Rouge concerns abour

security in Phnom Penh. But

the government questioned

comed by the rebels.

of physical ailments.

Chea Sim.

on King Sihanouk's peace The king's plan calls for the Khmer Rouge to declare an immediate ceasefire, open its zones of control and demohilise its guerrilla army. In exchange the government would

agree to open discussions with the rebels and negotiate de-

mands for a Khmer Rouge role in government. Asked what would be discussed in Pyongyang, Mr. Hun Sen told reporters: "The five points of His Majesty the King.

Prince Ranariddh appeared to be more optimisic about a successful outcome. "We're going to Pyongyang because we believe we'll have peace and national reconciliation otherwise we would not go," he said.

A senior Washington official confirmed Wednesday that the United States is holding discussions with Australia and ASEAN nations about helping Cambodia defend itself against a new Khmer Rouge offensive.

Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said Washington believed the freely elected Cambodian government must be supported, preferably by a multilateral opera-

"We believe it is important to support that government because Cambodia is an example peacekeeping operation and we want to make sure that success is continued," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in an interview in Washington.

of a successful .U.N.

Mountains, overlooking the Muslim held, Bos-

nian town of Tuzla (AFP photol

The United States was talking to Australia, countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other countries such as Japan and France which he said had a direct interest in Cambodia's

Referring to moves announced by Canberra last week to support Cambodia, Mr. Lord said he knew "lethal assistance" — military hard-ware — was under consideration. But he added that Washington was open-minded about what assistance would be most appropriate.

"We would welcome support for the government in various ways and I think it ought to be multilateral," he added.

He also echoed Australia's view that the Cambodian government and army also needed training, not just material. "It's understandable in the

wake of all the turbulence and effective as a military force," he said.

need in that area in addition to whatever material support may be provided."

But he said he did not know how the U.S. Congress would respond, adding: "Any military assistance to the Indochina area has a lot of historical resonance to it and potential political sensitivity so we want to work extremely closely with the Congress in this.

infighting of recent years that the new integrated army needs training and a lot of help to be "So there's a great deal of

Khmer Rouge sincerity, saying Over 100 Burmese troops killed, rebels say

BANGKOK (R) — Guerrillas loyal to opium warlord Khun Sa killed more than 100 Burmese government troops in fierce fighting over the last week, a guerrilla source said

Wednesday. Khun Sa's Mong Tai Army (MTA) overran two government bases, forcing more than 600 Burmese troops to retreat to the north, guerrilla official Keunsai Chaiven told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Mr. Keunsai said more than 100 Burmese soldiers were kil-. led during the fighting, which died down last Sunday. He said

18 guerrillas were killed. The government positions overrun were at Mong Kyawt and Hinkong in northeastern Burma's Shan state and government troops were forced to retreat to the town of Mong-

Government forces began an offensive against Khun Sa's stronghold in southern Shan

state late last year and there has been intermittent fighting. at times heavy, since then.

Burma's state-run television. in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok late Tuesday, said government troops and MTA guerrillas clashed in Loi Lan township in southern Shan state last Friday.

The broadcast made no mention of casualties but said government troops seized 3.300 litres (880 gallons) of acetic anhydride acid, a chemical used to refine opium into

"The chemical was being sent to an opium refining camp of Khun Sa on the Thai-(Burma) border." the television report said.

"The Tatmadaw is crushing the... armed group," the report added, using the official

Burmese term for its army. Mr. Keunsai denied the government report. "They cooked up that story about the chemicals to cover their losses." he

"The Burmese are lying. That area has been a battlefield for some time and if I were a trader I would never risk building a refinery in a battlefield," he added. A Thai anti-narcotics officer

monitoring developments in Burma also doubted the Burmese government report and said all narcotics-related activity in the area ceased late last year when Burmese government forces began the push against Khun Sa.

Khun Sa, alias Chang Si-Fu, is a 60-year-old half-Chinese, half-Shan commander of more than 10,000 guerrillas.

He says he is fighting the Rangoon junta for the independence of Shan state, hut Thai and U.S. anti-narcotics officials accuse him of using his army to protect his heroin business. A U.S. court has indicted him for heroin trafficking.

elections

while the Socialists have called for a rapid dissolution of par-The biggest reasons for supliament - Mr. Hata has been

"The public has felt the

has been reflected in the low election turnouts," he said. "It's the pain of birth in a transition period to a new

ter standing in the rain in central Tokyo repeating his pleas for support to get on with essential government business.

One of Mr. Hata's few assets Whatever people think of

Keizai Shimhun showed that Mr. Hata's cabinet had the backing of 42.2 per cent of

porting Mr. Hata were his reliable character, his freshness. his clean image and the fact that his government contained no LDP nor Socialist figures. These two traditional adver-

saries, relics of the cold war political era. are the two largest groups in parliament. tronically, they would have to join forces to topple Mr. Hata's government. The poll showed that 51.1

per cent of the Japanese were in favour of holding new general elections as soon as parliament approves the stalled national budget bills for the current fiscal year.

The latest survey showed that 31 per cent of 3,000 eligible voters polled from May 13-15 said they did not support Mr. Hata, who was forced to form the nation's first minority government in 39 years. Forty-five oer cent of re-

Charles landed with Diana's 'grooming' bill

LONDON (AFP) — A disgruntled Prince Charles, heir to the British throne. has been landed with a £160,000 (\$240,000) annual bill for his estranged wife Princess Diana's "grooming", the Daily-Mail said Wednesday. The £3,000 (\$4,500) a week account is believed to cover some of Princess Diana's clothing. casual wear for her sons, her alternative therapy treatments. make-up, hairdressing and some gifts. Costs of her private holiday travel arrangements are also included. A Kensington Palace source told the Mail: "She has made it pretty clear around here that it will never be allowed to get that high again. Staff have been urged to advise on areas where cuts can be made, and they are already in place.

Deranged man piggybacks parked plane

MANILA (AFPI — A man believed to be mentally de-ranged passed by tight security at Manila airport before dawn Wednesday and clambered on top of a parked passenger jet, Philippine aviation officials rnuippine aviation officials said. Airport police gave chase after they spotted Nestor Escarán, 20, on the ramp area of the domestic airport. The man then ran up the rear stairway of a parked Philippine Airlines Airbus and managed to climb atop the plane, they said. He was finally convinced said. He was finally convinced to climb down after five minutes, and is now under police custody. Airport officials said no flights were disrupted as a result of the stunt.

Nine-year-old organises blackmail of teacher

CHICAGO (AFP) - A nineyear-old girl who did not like her teacher bribed classmates to blackmail him with false accusations of sexual abuse, Chicago police said. The disgruntled schoolgirl paid her classmates a mere dollar to lie about their teacher, 43-yearold Albert Thompson, police said. Mr. Thompson told police that his class at an elementary school in Chicago's rough South Side neighbourhood got unruly on May 9, when he was brought in as a substitute teacher. When he threatened to report the raucous bunch for misbehaviour, the girl offered 10 of her friends a dollar each if they told the school they had been fondled by Mr. Thompson, police said. But police cleared Mr. Thompson when the children gave inconsistent statements and two of them, including the ringleader, admitted they had made the story up. "What's so scary and so sad is that you've got nine-year-old kids sophisticated enough to know they can get a teacher by saying they fondled him, said Jackie Gallagher, the Teachers Union spokeswoman said. The school is now deciding how to best punish the . lying youngsters.

First sex-change operations in Belarus

MOSCOW (AFP) - Three people have had sex-change operations in Belarus, the first to be performed in the former Soviet republic, the ITAR-TASS news agency quoted medical officials in Minsk as saying Tuesday. The three, aged 21 and 22, underwent the surgery free of charge, according to the surgeon, Professor Vladimir Podgaiski, Prof. Podgaiski, who received three months of training in Moscow prior to the operations, said the work was no more complicated than reattaching a severed finger.

U.S. weather forecasts may add sunburn warning washington (AFP) — To

help Americans combat rising skin cancer rates, the National Weather Service is considering adding a sunburn warning to its temperature and prospective rainfall predictions. Forecasters already give air quality and pollen counts in the summer and wind-chill warnings in the winter. But since sunburn has been linked to skin cancer and since thin, high clouds can fool people into thinking that it is, safe to go outdoors, the National Weather Service is planning a sunburn rating from 1-15 that could go into effect as early as June or July, said the National Weather Service Director. "It's a serious issue and one which, from a very personal standpoint, I'm concerned about what we can do to help," he said. Skin cancer is the most freouently di-

Japan's tottering premier opposes snap TOKYO (R) — Japanese Faced with daily opposition attacks — the LDP says the However, an early move to Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata. dissolve parliament would cabinet has no right to govern, mean holding an election

attempting to prolong the life of his sbaky minority government, warned the country Wednesday that an early election would jeopardise hardwon political reforms. The caution followed a de-

mand Tuesday from the leader of the largest opposition group, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), that Mr. Hata and his three-week-old government quit as soon as the national budget passes parlia-The LDP, booted out of

office last summer after 38 vears of unbroken rule, and other opposition parties have pledged to help vote through the long-delayed state budget Once that becomes law.

probably around mid-July, the.

beleaguered Hata is considered fair game for a noconfidence motion in parlia-Although elections need not he called before mid-1997, the

under the old system of multiseat districts, seen as the cause of rampant corruption because it encourages candidates to campaign lavishly. It led to candidates accepting

shady donations from business groups seeking to promote their interests with the govern-Following passage in January of a long-awaited reform

hill, one clause of which introduced single-member electoral districts, a panel began drawing up a new electoral map. It was initially not expected to complete the task before September. By some scenarios, Mr. Hata's administration

might well collapse before then. "The government has changed to one of minority rule and I am aware that some people want a early public verdict." Mr. Hata told parlia-

trying to generate public sup-On Wednesday, he attempted to introduce a longer-term perspective to Japan's current political upheavals and explain them as part of an historic sea

deadlock in politics and this

Sunday saw the prime minis-

is his geniality — unlike many of his predecessors, he is plainspoken and unpretentious.

But he added: "If we don't the government, his ordinari-

وكذا فن المول

After the fall of the Berlin Wall and breakup of the Soviet empire, the CSCE hoped to become a strong security umbrella in the post-cold war Despite attempts to cool passions it Georgia. Kooijma forum ? identify

Brazil top ranked

ZURICH (AFP) — Brazil stayed on top of FIFA's rankings a month before the World Cup starts in the United States.

Sweden moved up six places to third behind Germany. Fifteen

of the World Cup qualifiers are in the top 2tt. European

champions Denmark, fifth, are the highest ranked non-qualifiers. Saudi Arabia (35th), South Kurea (37th) and

N. Korea keep teams away from Hiroshima

TOKYO (AFP) - North Korea has decided not to take part

in team competitions in the Asian Games in Hiroshima this

October, the organising committee said Wednesday. North

Korea, absent from major international sporting events for a

year, has yet to decide whether to compete in individual

events. The hardline communist state, strapped for eash and

isolated by its suspected nuclear arms programme, boycotted

the 1986 Asian Games held in the South Korean capital of

ALGIERS (AFP) - Local football refree Nourreding Terkhi

dropped dead after being punched by a player of the Ain Boudinar Club in a west Algerian league cash against Stidia. The incident happened in the 75th minute when Terkli showed Mohamed Korti a led card.

ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) - Kail Wendlinger, who

crashed in practice at the Monaco Grand Prix last Thursday.

was being brought out of his coma, his Formula One team

Sauber Mercedes said here Wednesday. "The process that

started yesterday of bonging bur! Wendlinger slowly out of his controlled deep sleep progresses as planned," a spoke-man said. Doctors at the Saint Rech Hospital at Nice as France had

kept Wendlinger in an artificial coma to relieve pressure on his brain. However, doctors were still rejuctant to say if he would recover completely. His crash, following the deaths of Ayrton

Senna and Roland Ratzenberger in Italy two weels previous-

ty, caused motor racing authorities to bring in a series of changes to Formula One car designs to improve safety.

MADRID (AFP) - Tenerife's miofield powerhouse Fernan-

do Redondo has been offered a four-year contract by Spanish

giants Real Madrid. The transfer of the Argentinian player

was announced jointly by the club chairman Ramon Mendoza

and Javier Perez in the Spanish capital Tuesday. Real Madrid

are reported to have offered \$3.8 million and two players in

exchange for Redondo. One of the players involved in the

exchange is reserve team player Victor Manuel Fernandez. The other will be named shortly. Real also agreed tu play a

GOREN BRIDGE

WHEN BAD DOES NO HARM

Real get their man

friendly with Teneofe at Santa Cruz.

WITH OMAR SHARIF

Tigune Mena Service Inc

Both vulnerable South deals,

NORTH

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. A 2

Bolivia (43rd) are the lowest-ranked qualifiers.

Seoul but went to the 1990 games in Beiging.

Referee drops dead after punch

Wendlinger brought out of coma

nic-stricken fish at Saddam He fter a failed k

establishment

separately, have ned to Israel in t

a long, self-inne ew York. e Israeli govere llion to buy out the inflated share per d in a rush by into rs on tumours ling devaluation li shekel. rousands of smi many of whom we

did for us in t efore the Unit id the relief me help us, sait.

ardish farmes t prompted the E safe havens w the displaced p) return home!

year Turkey bee but denies that its bberalely desur the PKK land

+ KJ64 + SOUTH 4 Q 8 North hast West Pass

+ Q 9 8 5 Void Q J 10 9 8

Pass Pass Opening lead. Queen of Law: If something can go wrong, it

With a five-loser hand, South was close to a jump to game, but chose the more empservative invitational cond is back to 10-four high jump to three hearts. With two aces, transps, two rolls, two spaces and including the ace of tramps. North

are of diamonds, declarer were to roll a diamond before touching tramp. Now declarer leads a heart I NT Pass

to the me and, if both defenders follow, it is a simple matter to draw trimps and riatm 10 tricks.

When West shows out declarer Don't be fulled into a false sense continues 1) rusting matther dis-of security by a seemingly impregament. Having armed both low nable holding, Remember Marphy's trump, the rules, the contract is secure as lot gas East has at least two spindes and one of its Hertaret cashes the winters in those suits and

had no qualms about acception

West led the queen of diamonds

and declarer, counting six trimp

tricks, two spades and two minor-

start acces, gave the band no thought.

South cashed the ace of trumps

When West discarded a diamond

declarer found that in truks had

"More unto? unate was the fact that,

have been made.

with a little care, the contract could

Suppose that, after winning the

The 5-0 break was most unlucky.

the ace of d

when East does not ruff, the trick the minor-suit aces.

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Bryan Robson signs as Middlesbrough player-manager

land (R) - Former Manchester United and England captam Bryan Robson was officially named player-manager of English first division club Middlesbrough Wednesday.

The 37-year-old Robson. who had 13 years with Manchester United, was given a welcome rousing/by lans when he arrived at Middleshrough's Ayresome Park home Wednes-

Local schoolchildren held up red and white halloons while scores of supporters sported "Robson's Army" T-shirts.

Rubson happily signed auto-graphs, then told cheering fans on the terraces: "Thanks for your support this morning. Let's hope it's going to be a successful time.

"I don't want to promise took much at the start but let's hope that somewhere along the line Middleshiongh can come back to the premier league where they deserve to be. Thanks very much for your support. I hope it continues next season.

Robson was the dub's numbet one target when manager Lennie Lawrence was sacked earlier this mouth after Middleshrough narrowly missed the first division play-offs.

Chairman Steve Gibson said: "Robson has joined us on a three-year contract." Middlesbrough hope the

appointment will herald an exciting new era at the north-east club, who are due to move 10 a new £16 million (\$24.05 million), 32,000 all-seater stadium locx! year.

Now they expect a season ticket bonanza following the arrival of a big name personal-

Robson was not even on the substitutes bench for Manchester United when they completed the league and cup douhte Saturday with a 4-0 win over Chelsea as his playing career ended on a sad note.



عِلَمُ الْمُصَلِّ الْمُصَلِّ

Bryan Robson

Sampras targets 4th Grand Slam event in row in Paris

PARIS (R) — World number one Pete Sampras starts overwhelming favourite to claim the French Open crown and become the first man to win four Grand Slam events in a row since Australian Rod Laver in 1969.

"It's the most exciting challenge in my career," said the 22-year-old American, who warmed up for the Paris event starting next Monday by crushing Boris Becker to take his first major clay title in Rome last Sunday. Sampras, who won Wimble-

don and the U.S. Open last year and went on to take the Australian Open in January, has oever progressed further than the quarter-finals in the French capital.

"It still believe that guys like (Jim) Courier or (Sergi) Bruguera are stronger than I am on clay but if I get an oppor-tunity to win io Paris, I'll take it." he said.

Long regarded as a hard-court specialist, Sampras has proved that he can adapt his powerful game to all surfaces and he will be looking forward

to becoming the first attacking player to wio the French Open since Frenchman Yannick Noah in 1983.

"I really think that a serve and volley specialist can win in Paris," said one of the main contenders, hard-hitting Croat Goran Ivanisevic. "(Stefan) Edberg had his chance when he reached the final in 1989 and Boris (Becker) and myself reached the semifinals. The problem for us on clay is that we need to be particularly fit to perform well. We can't afford to be on a bad day."

Sampras has bad very few bad days this year, taking seven tournaments and winning 27 matches in a row since falling to Dutchman Jacco Eltingh in February in Philadelphia

While Sampras kept win-ning, bis rivals struggled. Courier, who established himself as the ultimate force on clay by winning in Paris in 1991 and 1992, has offered a mixture of cocouraging results and early exits and is still fighting to recapture his form of old.

Bruguera, who overcame

final.

off unpredictable Andre Agastes e si, back on form after a string & m

Courier in last year's final worried his fans when he was

the Monte Carlo final in April

To many, Medvedev, who

burst into the top ten byen

reaching the semifinals in Paris

last year, could be Sampras's

most dangerous opponent. The

19-year-old Ukrainian was iti-

pressive io Monte Carlo, monging past Courier in a tense.

quarter-final tie before humi-liating Bruguera in a one-sided

Sampras will also have to-the

kepe an eye on Alberto Be-

rasategui, the most receot in a

long line of fine Spanish base-

liners, and Russian hopeful, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, whose

devastatiog forehand can do

damage on any surface
But Kafelnikov, who has u

worried several experienced

players recently, proved no a

match for Sampras Tuesday, p

when the big American dismissions and him 6-3 6-3 the World is

beaten by Andrei Medvedev in

Hawks, Nuggets stay alive in NBA playoffs

ATLANTA IRI -- Mookie Blaylock recorded his second playoft triple-double to help ile top-seeded Atlanta Hawks stace of elimination and the abother Denver Nuggets stayed alive with a double avertime victory. Tu solay,

The Nuggets, who stunned league oest Seattle in the first round, outscored the Utah Jazz 15-7 in the second overtime to post a 109-101 victory and avoid el mination for the fifth time in the playoffs. The Jazz lead the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal 3-2 with game six in Denver Thursday.

In the other west semilinal. the Houston Rockets crushed the Phoenix Suns 11/9-86 to take a 3-2 lead with the lirst home victory of that series. In Atlanta, Blaylock had 14

points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists to lead the Hawks to an 88-76 victory over the Indiana Pacers in their Eastern Conference semifinal. The Pacers still lead the

games to two and can advance to the conference finals for the first time in franchise history with a victory at home Thurs-

Atlanta, which needed the full five games to beat Miami in the first round, is trying to become the fifth team in NBA Instory to rally from a three games to one deficit

Craig Ehlo scored 22 points and Danny Manning added 20 tur Atlanta, which took a 65-ml. lead unto the func period. "If they want to win this

series I feel they better win in hubena," and Manning, who scored eight of his points in the tourth marrier.

A linak by Detrick McKey pulled the Pacers within 80-76 with 2.39 laft but they were blanked the rest of the way. while Ehlo scored four points down the stretch. Reggie Miller scored 22

points and McKey added 20 and 13 rebounds for Indiana, which lost for only the second lime in eight playoff games. Ehlo rescued the Hawks in the third quarter. He scored 12 points, making 5-of-6 shots from the field, while the rest of

shots in the third period. At Utali, Mahmoud Abdul Rauf scored five of his 22 as the Nuggets won their second consecutive game after

falling behind 3-0 in the series.

Denver scored the first

his teammates made just 1-of-9

seven points of the second overtime. A dunk by Brian toilet. Williams off a steal by Robert Pack with 3:16 left gave Denver the lead for good at 96-94.

Graf prepares for Paris with secret dreams of paradise

PARISTAFP) - Shu ran book the biggest suite in the grandest hotel in the world, but that is not Steffi Graf's idea of oaradise.

The girl who probably has more money than she knows what to do with does not like to surround herself with the trappings of luxury. And she re-vealed this week that she has spent some of her most enjoyable times away from tennis with the poor people of the Dominican Republic.

With so many demands on ber time and rarely able to relax, Graf has found the basic amenities and laid-back attitude of the people there a welcome contrast to her own pampered but hectic lifestyle.

"It's the best time I've had away from tennis, because it's very pure. The people are very simple, and they have nothing like televisions there. It's just a very simple life. It was a nice experience," she said. "There were very

houses and oo hotel. I just stayed in a very plain and basic room. There was nothing inside, except the bed and the sink. There wasn't even a

"We'd go to the beach, and the kids would come up to us and they were really very

friendly.
"One day I went with my brother on a bicycle on the sand and had a little accident and scratched my leg. Someone came right away and tried to belp. Even if they didn't understand your language,

they were so friendly.
"They were living on the beach and didn't have anything much - just something to cook on and a few odds and ends. They were really nice people, and when I went back the next time I took all my old clothes and gave them away.
"I think it's great the way

they live, because they don't have the pressure of having to do anything in particular. It makes you feel bow unnecessary some of things are that you do sometimes.

Graf fell so much in love with the way of life she would gladly return and "go native"
— even if only for a short time.

That would be beautiful ... side," she said, adding: "Hav-ing a very plain life for a week would be wonderful."

The chance of that happening remain remote, however. cause ber commitments inst do not allow her to take off for tropical beaches that often, so what else would make a perfect day for her?
"Sleep in. Get up late. Get the papers and read them slowly without any pressure until I'd finished them off," she

No doubt she would also have a large bowl of sweets beside her, while she studied the oews. They are ber favourite "food" - her addiction."

"Sweets of all kinds, I just love them," she confessed. "I gorge on them, even though I try not to. I have no selfcontrol, none at ally." But to more serious busi-

There are potentially turbulent days ahead for women's tennis with the restructuring of the tour taking place at the same time as the popularity of the game is reeling from the absence of some of the game's most charismatic personalities - among them Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati.

sponsor is underway, linked with efforts to sell women's tennis to a bigger television audience. Millions are at stake,

as well as the careers and often ... in affluent lifestyle of the players, 4 × But Steffi thinks they will come 2 f.

through the changes OK.

"It's not going to be an -ly easytime in the next few years.
But we shall establish he

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"We shouldn't expect too." much, for instance from Types sales, because a lot of money is mvolved and everywhere else money is a moved and everywhere else money is short. We should go a none step down. We can't extend there is a night now.

The money is definitely by more than enough, that's for it sure. I don't think there is need at

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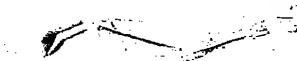
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NEWS IN BRIEF

NATO to offer Russia special status

BRUSSELS (R) - NATO agreed Wednesday to offer Russia a special partnership following Moscow's refusal to sign the 'partnership for peace" scheme and its increasingly anti-Western line, alliance sources said. "Ambassadors from the 16 alliance nations agreed that a special partnership with Russia, which could include extra consultations on European security issues, was needed to "take into account its size and weight," said one NATO source. It would be entirely separate from the "partnership for peace" scheme, which is open to all Eastern European states and former Soviet republics. In addition, NATO agreed that other Eastern European states and former Soviet republics would have the right to know the full details of any special arrangement between the alliance and Russia, the sources added. "It will have to be open and transparent," the sources said. The sources said there was no question of giving Russia any veto over NATO decisions.

7 hurt in Hong Kong shootout

HONG KONG (R) — Seven people were injured as police and robbers traded gunsbots in Hong Kong's teeming central business district Wednesday, police said. Police had no information on bow serious the injured were. Witnesses saw a policeman, a Western woman and a Chinese man being carried away on stretchers after the gunbattle, which followed a jewellery shop holdup. The Chinese man was covered by a blanket and motionless, with blood pouring from a wound.

Mystery of missing Craxi deepens

ROME (R) — A mystery over the whereabouts of disgraced former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi deepened Wednesday after he sent a sick note telling magistrates he was too ill to hand in bis passport, Italian state radio reported. Milan magistrates last week ordered the former Socialist Party leader, who faces some 20 different graft probes, to surrender his passport for fear he might flee the country. But the burly, bald-beaded and bespectacled Craxi — prime minister from 1983 to 1987 and one of Italy's best known politicians - has disappeared and is thought to be abroad. He sent the medical certificate and a covering letter by fax to one of his lawyers Tuesday from an undisclosed location. The certificate, signed by a foreign doctor whose nationality has not been released, is reported to refer to diabetes, a condition which the 60-yearold Craxi has suffered from for many years. Italian newspapers commented that this had never prevented Mr. Craxi from carrying out bis duties as a high-profile and aggressive prime minister and Socialist leader until he was laid low by the country's huge graft scandal.

Rabin bans food, drink at meetings

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has put a stop to eating and drinking during cabinet meetings in a bid to bring some decorum to the proceedings, a senior official said Wednesday. Mr. Rabin had seen enough of the cabinet table covered in food and drinks plastered across the world's icievision screens and newspapers and decided to close what had become known as "Yitzhak's cafe." The official, who sits in on the meetings, said ministers were "stunned" Tuesday when they arrived to see the table bare. No more sandwiches, salads, fruit, cakes or hot and cold drinks. In future those feeling the pangs of bunger will have to leave the cabinet room for a small buffet in a nearby corridor. Mr. Rabin has also banned ministers from talking to the press after the meetings. The rush of ministers to get in front of a micropbone or television camera does no good to the image of the government," the official said. However Mr. Rabin, who is also Lealth minister and a chain smoker, has still refused to sign into law a bill passed by parliament banning smoking in all public places.

iranian police surround Saudi embassy

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 50 armed riot police were deployed around the Saudi embassy in Tehran Wednesday amid a row between the two countries over a ban on an anti-U.S. rally in Mecca, an AFP correspondent reported. A police office at the scene told AFP that the move was taken at the request of Saudi authorities to protect the embassy amid mounting tension between the two countries. Iran called off an anti-U.S. and anti-Israel demonstration, planned to be held by Iranian pilgrims in Mecca Tuesday, under the threat of force

Iran protests against siege in Mecca

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has strongly protested the siege of its pilgrimage quarter in Mecca by Saudi security forces, saying it had disrupted the pilgrimage procedure, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said. The Iranian embassy in Riyadh sent a "strongly-worded" letter to the Saudi Foreign Ministry to protest against the siege, it said. "The siege has disrupted the affairs of our people ahead of the pilgrimage period," the embassy said. Special Saudi riot police were stationed around the camp earlier this week after Iran announced it was determined to hold an anti-U.S. and anti-Israel rally in front of the building Tuesday. Iran Tuesday called off the rally.

Ukraine takes tough stance on Crimea

KIEV (R) — Ukraine toughened its stance towards separatist tendencies in the Crimean peninsula Wednesday, pledging to take "all necessary measures" to stop a breakaway by the largely Russian-speaking region. "The... Ukrainian President (Leonid Kravchuk) and parliament will take all necessary measures to stabilise the political situation in Crimea and ensure Ukraine's territorial integrity," said a statement distributed by the Presidential Press Service. The statement did not specify what measures Kiev was ready to take. Russian nationalists bave accused Ukraine of preparing to use force to maintain their rule in Crimea, where a pro-Russian president and parliament were elected this year. The semi-autonomous peninsula, with President Yuri Meshkov at the helm, has moved actively to remove itself from kiev's sphere of influence and forge closer political and economic ties with neighbouring Russia.

China denies prosecuting dissident

BELTING (R) — China's Foreign Ministry Wednesday denied as "sheer fabrication" a foreign news report that Beijing was preparing to prosecute its most famous dissident, Wei Jingsheng, for high treason. "Our information from the departments concerned shows that this report is a sheer fabrication." a ministry spokesman was quoted as saving by Xinhua News Agency. A foreign news agency Monday reported that Wei, who was detained in April six months after he was paroled following nearly 15 years in prison, would be prosecuted on treason charges. Xinhua said the Foreign Ministry statement was in response to "the report that the Chinese Judicial Department is prosecuting Wei on charges of high treason and he is likely to receive a sentence of 10 to 15 years imprison-

U.K., China ends Hong Kong talks

HONG KONG (AFP) - British and Chinese officials Wednesday ended extensive talks on future use of military sites in Hong Kong after 1997 without reaching an accord Officials on the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (ILG) said no agreement had been reached after last week's three days of discussions were extended by four days. Alan Paul, head of the British team, said "we are disappointed, but not despondent" that an agreement was not reached." "We have tried to strike for an agreement," Mr. Paul said, adding "we'll continue our efforts." It was widely reported that the meeting failed because China is now demanding that a bigger naval base than first agreed be built by the British territorial government on Stonecutters Island. It had also changed its position on unused military sites that were to be redeveloped.

Iraqis deplore U.N. decision to maintain sanctions

were more sad than angry Wednesday after the U.N. Security Council voted to maintain stiff sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990).

"Every renewal of sanctions means further deterioration in living standards," said a school teacher on the way to work.

"Of course I am sad," a civil servant said. "The price of children's wear is about 1,000 dinars, three times my salary."

News that the Security Council voted Tuesday to maintain the stiff sanctions which bar Iraq's exports of oil and have thereby devastated its economy cast a deep pall over Baghdad.

The Iraqi dinar this week hit a record low of 400 to the dollar.

The Security Council, meeting in New York, voted not to consider easing sanctions until Iraq meets all requirements to scrap its weapons of mass destruction, perhaps later this

But it was split on inter-pretation of the 1991 Gulf War ceasefire resolution, with the U.S. at odds with some other members in its demands that Iraq comply with a host nf other conditions, including ending persecution of Kurds and

The U.N. decision could not have come at a worse time for Iraqis planning to celebrate the Muslim feast of Eid Al Adha Saturday.

"What Eid?," one woman said, her shopping basket con-taining only a few onions. "The council will not lift the sanctions. America will never let us live like before."

Iragis, used to a comparatively luxurious way of life before sanctions, now find it impossible to buy even a chocolate bar for their chil-

"You can look but not buy." a man whispered in a supermarket. "When the embargo will go. I do not know." "Fear God," retorted an old

man with an optician's pre-

scription when told the

cheapest glasses in the city now cost 1.000 dinars. The man's monthly pension is 200 dinars. Signs of the usually festive Eid Al Adha celebrations are noticeably absent from Baghdad. In the past, residents followed closely the haj (pilgrim-age) festivities in Mecca and many people bought new clothes and slaughtered a sheep in keeping with the religious observances in the Mus-

lim holy city. This year, only 600 Iraqis could afford to make the haj out of a quota of 19,1000 permitted to travel to Mecca by the Saudi religious authorities.

"We are being strangled. Medicine is rare, food scarce. Something has to be done, It is no use waiting for the Security Council anymore." a shopkeeper said.

"It is time we stopped cooperation with the United Nations unless we get a pledge to have the sauctions eased or lifted," a resident said, "We have given the U.N. everything and have gotten nothinng in return.

IAEA team starts work at N. Korea atomic complex

VIENNA (R) — United Nations nuclear inspectors arrived at North Korea's atomic complex at Yongbyon Wednesday and have started work, the U.N.'s nuclear safeguards agency

A spokesman at the Viennabased International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said he was unable to confirm whether the three-man team had visited a five-megawatt nuclear reactor at the complex, which some reports have said Pyongyang has begun refuelling in defiance of the IAEA.

There is some confusion whether North Korea has jus shut down the controversial reactor to allow its core to cool before refuelling, or whether it has removed its uranium fuel

The IAEA insists it must carry out tests on the rods to find out if Pyongyang has diverted radioactive material for a suspected nuclear arms programme. Some Western governments believe North Korea already possesses a crude nuclear device but Pyongyang has rigorously denied this.

The IAEA experts left for North Korea at the weekend to take up an offer by the Communist government allowing the agency to complete tests at a nuclear reprocessing plant at Yongbyon that it blocked in March. Additionally. Pyongyang said the team could check seals and cameras at the but that was all

The IAEA spokesman said he had no further details of the work carried out Wednesday but the inspectors would contact agency heaoquarters every day during their stay in North

Balaguer holds on to lead in Dominican elections

SANTO DOMINGO (AFP)

— President Joaquin Balaguer seems closer to being reelected for a seventh term, as partial results from Monday's general elections put him ahead of his nearest rival by a 44-40 per cent margin.

Trailing behind 87-year-old Balaguer and opposition candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, 57, was former president Juan Bosch, 81, with 13 per cent of the vote, the Central Election Board said with

·62 per cent of the vote count

Pena Gomez, of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, and other opposition leaders have publicly charged the board with election fraud, prompting the police to take positions Tuesday around the capital to deter unrest.

The charges were potentially explosive. Though the voting went without incident. 30 people were killed in electionrelated violence during the campaign.

Malawians vote on regional lines in watershed poll

BLANTYRE. Malawi (R) -A fierce three-party battle in Malawi's watershed elections emerged as results were announced Wednesday, with voters overwhelmingly hacking candidates from their tribal re-

As counting of ballots of Tuesday's polls moved at a snail's pace, provisional results showed a tough fight between veteran President Kamuzu Banda, his arch rival Bakili Muluzi and another opposition leader Chakufwa Chihana.

Mr. Banda. Malawi's sole leader since independence from Britain in 1964, swept the board in some districts in his stronghold and home area in central Malawi.

Mr. Muluzi. a 51-year-old former political pupil of Banda, took a massive lead in the south, his powerbase, and threatened to snatch some seuts close to the midlands.

The elections, forced on autocratic Banda by mounting internal agitation for democracy and a 1992 cut-off of vital aid by the West to press for political reforms, were Malawi's first in 3t years of Banda's one-man rule.

The results being announced hy state radio showed Mr. Chihana, leader of the opposition Alliance for Democracy (Aford) and former trade unionist, clearing the decks in the north, his home area.

"It looks like a tribal vnte." an African diplomat told Reuters. "Of course it is too early to make out a definitive trend. hut the partial results point to

Must of Malawi's 9.7 million people, almost four million of whom registered to vote in Tuesday's elections, are illiterate and live in rural areas.

The radio, allowed for the first time to stay open for 24 hours to broadcast the results. stressed it did not yet have a full ballot tally from most constituencies.

Election officials said there had been delays in the vote count caused by lack of transport in move hallots from polling to counting stations.



carried on shoulders by the crowd at the command headquarters in Gaza City. The Israell army pulled out of its last positions in

Gaza Strip and Jericho (AFP photo)

U.N. force in Rwanda warns reinforcement delays will cost lives

KIGALI (R) — The be-leaguered U.N. force in Rwanda warned Wednesday that more civilians were bound to perish because of delays in sending reinforcements to end

six weeks of carnage.
The U.N. Assistance Mission In Rwanda (UNAMIR) appealed for urgent belp from the international community as it revised how long it would take to bolster its peacekeeping force from 470 to 5,500strong as approved by the U.N. Security Council Tnes-

"We want to emphasise that it is fine for the world to be appalled at the carnage and condemn is but it is time to do something," UNAMIR Executive Director Abdul Kabia told Reuters.

"We need logistical support, armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and troops to stop the carnage. Everyone is appalled by the killing but the world must back up this kind of concern and act now.

"We feel that the longer the delay the more people will die either from starvation or a lack of medical facilities and the more we will be unable to give protection to people," he "We also suspect that more

people will be killed as we will not have access to areas where U.N. protection is required." The main purpose of the

all-African U.N. force is to protect civilians and aid workers by establishing "secure bumanitarian areas" amid the killing fields of the central African country. Aid officials estimate more

than 500,000 people, most from the minority Tutsi tribe, have been slaughtered since Hutu President Jnvenal Haybarimana was killed on April 6 in a rocket attack on his

UNAMIR force Commander General Romeo Dallaire says it may take as long as a month or two before the new force is in place. Mr. Kabia said UNAMIR

had received no word from New York on when the first 50 military observers would arrive and it looked as if it would take much longer than a week for the first 500 Ghanaian reinforcements to reach Kigali.

Several African countries, including neighbouring Tanzania, have tentatively offered to send contingents, but even Ghana said it is studying the Security Council resolution in detail.

The United States had offered to transport the troops to Rwanda and provide some equipment but wanted the reinforcements in safe areas near the borders instead of in the capital Kigali.

"We have still not received any written assurances on who will provide the logistical support in the form of an airlift to get the troops in or who will provide APCs which are crucial," Mr. Kabia said. "It is pointless to put men on

the ground without equip-

Asked about Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans' comments that the mandate for the U.N. force was unworkable, Mr. Kabia said be believed it was enough for "a robust peacekeeping op-

"Under it we can now defend ourselves if we feel that people we are protecting or convoys we are escorting are threatened. We don't have to wait for them to be shot at before we respond."

Meanwhile, Rwandan rebels condemned Wednesday delays in bolstering the U.N. force in Rwanda and vowed to end massacres by seizing the whole bloodsoaked country.

Denis Polisi, deputy vicechairman of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), said it appeared the U.N. hnmanitarian operation ordered Tueslong to get off the ground.

"If they are thinking of a month or two before all their forces reach Rwanda then we think that is too long to be

"We would rather say they gave up their mission. People are still suffering every day. People are still dying and we think a month or two is too long to be of any meaningful purpose," he told Reuters.
"This delay is proof again of

the U.N.'s unending bureaucracy. First they took too long to react and even when they finally did they cannot get themselves together," ne added.

He welcomed the U.N. saying its reinforcements were being sent in purely for humanitarian purposes but warned that if they did anything else then they would be considered an enemy force.

The RPF says it has passed conditions to the U.N. in New York — without a response on the terms of the U.N. mission.

U.N. officers said Wednes-

day more than a month of talks on arranging a ceasefire between government forces and the rebels were making some progress but declined to give Mr. Polisi said the RPF

would never bold face-to-face talks with the rump Rwandan government, which it accuses of being the "clique of killers" behind the massacres of members of the Tutsi minority. But he said the RPF, which

is dominated by Tutsis, was ready to arrange a conditional ceasefire with government

"The ceasefire with the army can only be arranged when the massacres stopped," he said. "But our goal remains to stop the killings and we can only do so by liberating the whole country."

other coastal resorts in Turkey

in the past 10 months. In an

attack last month, two tourists

were killed and at least 15

Turkish troops kill 47 Kurds in clashes

ANKARA (R) - Turkish troops, stepping up their cam-paign against Kurdish guerrillas, killed 47 rebels in clashes in southeastern Turkey. Anatolian News Agency said

The agency said 28 members of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were killed Tuesday in Adiyaman province. Troops killed 17 PKK guerrillas in another gunbattle in Hakkari province on the same day.
Two rebels died in clashes in

Bingol and Sirnak provinces. More than 11.650 people have been killed in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK began its campaign for an independent state in the southeast. Turkish military aircraft struck a major PKK camp at Zaleh inside northern Iraq Wednesday, the Anatolian News Agency said.

Turkey hit the same camp once before on Jan. 28. Kurdish militants threatened Wednesday to intensify attacks on tourist sites frequented by Westerners in Turkey in an escalation of the bloody 10-The Europe representative

Front of Kurdistan (ERNK). the political wing of the PKK. said rebels would maintain pressure on popular Turkish tourist areas. "We do not want Westerners to got to Turkey. Tourism

is a pleasure and Europeans

must abandon this idea of pleasure," Kani Yilmaz told a news conference in Brussels. "Tourists do not go to Bosnia and our war is a much more serious one than that in Bosnia," Mr. Yilmaz added.

He said the PKK planned to attack all economic targets, including tourism, in Turkey.
"We want to hit all targets
which affect Turkey's cconomy," he said, without giving

further details. There have been several PKK bombings in Istanbul and

injured in a bomb explosion in of the National Liberation Istanbul's Covered Bazaar. Turkish troops have stepped up their campaign against Turkish guerrillas in recent days. Mr. Yilmaz said the intensity of attacks in Kurdistan deman-

forces.

ded international attention. He accused Germany of playing a direct role in the Kurdish conflict and of providing arms to Turkish forces. "The fact that a country such

as Germany helps Turkey with arms and has become directly involved in the war encourages the Turkish state to spill more blood," Mr. Yilmaz said, He said 30,000 Kurds had fled into northern Iraq follow-

Turkey said last week that the outlawed PKK had orchestrated the exodus as a publicity

ing recent attacks by Turkish

Sudan peace talks again delayed

NAIROBI (AFP) - Southern rebels again failed to turn up for talks with Sudan's fundamentalist Islamic government Wednesday, delaying the East-African country's slow ard painful peace process.

Government negotiators and delegates from one of the two rival factions of the mainly Christian Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been waiting in Nairobi since Monday for the Kenyanchaired meeting to open.

But representatives of the mainstream SPLA faction led by John Garang have not showed up.

A spokesman said they were "bogged down" wading through steamy swamps in southern Sudan on their way to Kenya by foot.

The rebel officials were forced to walk in heavy rain that made roads impassable to vehicles because government warplanes had bombed Chukedum airstrip in southeastern Sudan, from where they had planned to fly to the Nairobi talks, spokesman Stephen Wondu said.

"We would like to assure the international community that we are making efforts to come," Mr. Wondu told AFP Wednesday.

The planned talks would be the latest in a series of so far fruitless efforts by a sixmember regional group to broker a peaceful settlement to the decades-old conflict.

Charles mounts save St Petersburg' crusade

ST PETERSBURG (R) -Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, has called for an international effort to save historic St Petersburg from economic misery and physical decay. On the second day of a ground-breaking four-day trin to Russia's northwestern "city of the tsars", the 45-year-old prince saw for himself the privations of post-Soviet life and appealed to the West in help. The prince, the first topranking British royal to visit Russia since the 1917 revolution, was invited to St Petersburg by Mayor Anatoly Sobchak to publicise the plight of a city struggling to cope with economic dislocation and soaring crime. In the main engage-. ment of Tuesday's programme, the royal guest toured the city's biggest casualty hospital and learned the chronic state of a Russian healthcare system starved of cash and lacking the most basic modern equipment. In the twilight zone of Russian economics, taxi drivers and prostitutes demanding hard. currency payment earn more than surgeons, whose average monthly wage is the equivalent of \$60. Prince Charles urged European and U.S. hospitals to explore ways of donating old but still useable equipment to Russian medical centres after seeing the rusty scalpels and other antiquated items currently used in operations here.
"Seeing is believing," he said
as he toured St Petersburg's Marinskaya Casualty Hospital. To Western eyes, the operating theatres seem to be sets from a period movie or a display from medical museum. "Until you come here it is difficult to tell what the particular problems are," he said.

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Russian buys Stalin victim's Faberge egg

GENEVA (R) — A Russian art collector paid just over 1.2 million Swiss francs (\$850,000). for an enamelled Easter egg made by royal jeweller Karl Faberge for a riches-to-rags industrialist who died in a Stalinist camp. At an auction by Christie's of pre-revolutionary antiques, another Russian bought a second Faberge egg. made for an oil magnate who fled the country after the 1917 Bolshevik takeover, for 311 500 Swiss francs (\$219,000). Both buyers were unidentified, but were understood to be former citizens of the old Soviet Union now living in Western Europe. The first egg - the Green nephrite Apple Blossom — was one of several created by Faberge in 1901 for the Russian mining and ship-ping entrepreneur Alexander Kelch as a present for his wife Barbara. The sbort, darkhaired buyer at Tuesday's anction, clearly known to many other Russian-speaking antique dealers present, said it was for his private collection. "I no longer live in Russia." he said when asked if he was taking it back there. He declined to comment further. In a fastpaced auction at Geneva's Hotel Richemond, he outbid at leus! Iwo other Russians to win the egg for 1.1 million Swiss francs (\$774,465) before commission. People in the hall. including rival bidders, burst into applause when the auctioneer's hammer came down. The price was among the highest ever paid for a Faberge egg produced for a client outside the Russian royal family, for whom the famous jeweller made at lest 57 Easter eggs-

White House releases Clinton's income

between 1885 and 1916.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — In keeping with President Bill Clinton's pledge to be open and avoid any appearance of conflict of interest, the White House published the first family's net worth for 1993. But the financial disclosure — which also included first daughter Chelsea's assets — only gave a ballpark figure of between \$633,000 and \$1.6 million as it was calculated on a margin. rather than exact worth: Last. July. Mr. Clinton voluntarily put most of his assets in a "blind trust," an independently managed account that presidents traditionally use in order to avoid any suspicion of using their office for personal enrichment. Aside from the assets in that account, the Clinton's earned \$293,000 in 1993 income. \$189,000 from the president's salary.